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IDF strikes deep into Lebanon



Kiryat Shmona residents prepare to spend last night in a bomb shelter. (Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

Hizbullah bomb kills four, including senior officer, reporter

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and HEIDI J. GLEIT

Striking back at Hizbullah after Katyusha rockets slammed into Galilee and a roadside bomb killed its most senior officer in the security zone, the IDF heavily bombed guerrilla targets deep in Lebanon last night.

Residents along the northern border were ordered to spend the night in bomb shelters or security rooms. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to convene the security cabinet for further review of the Lebanon situation this morning.

"The situation on the northern border is intolerable, and we are not prepared to accept this. The reaction tonight will not be the last reaction," Defense Minister Moshe Arens told a Tel Aviv press conference at which the air strikes were announced.

Roadside bomb victims, Page 3

"We have struck hard at Hizbullah and will strike again, if necessary," Netanyahu said.

The air strikes focused on Hizbullah strongholds in the Baalbek area. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said Israel adhered to a three-year-old understanding with Hizbullah to avoid civilian targets.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the IAF strikes, but ambulances were seen rushing to the scenes of the attacks.

"That is the main headquarters of the Hizbullah in the Bekaa: in Baalbek – a target which has not been attacked for years," Mofaz told the news conference. "It lies in the heart of the city of Baalbek, and we saw fit to attack that target, because that is a hard and painful blow to Hizbullah in every way."

He said other sites hit included Hizbullah depots for ammunition, Katyushas, and other military equipment.

Lebanese security officials said a Palestinian base at Naameh, eight kilometers south of Beirut, was also attacked. No casualties were reported. The base belongs to the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the bomb that killed Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, 38, head of the IDF's Liaison Unit to south Lebanon; his driver, Chief Warrant Officer Imad Abu Rish, 34; his radio operator, St.-Sgt. Omer Alkabetz, 22; and Ilan Roeh, 32, Israel Radio's veteran northern reporter.

Netanyahu hinted that Israel's action – which would involve land and sea forces as well – might eventually end the agreement to avoid civilian targets, which he accused Hizbullah of "systematically" violating.

"If we don't act, the situation will be much worse," he said, appearing with Mofaz and Arens.

They spoke shortly after residents along the northern border were ordered into bomb shelters following a Katyusha rocket attack on Western Galilee, the second in less than 24 hours. Late on Saturday night, Katyushas hit Moshav Margaliot, causing some damage, but no casualties. In the Galilee Panhandle, convoys of cars were seen heading south in anticipation of further attacks.

The Katyusha attack is seen as a grave violation of the Grapes of Wrath cease-fire arrangements.

In Northern Command, the mood was naturally subdued over the death of Gerstein and the others. The attack came less than a week after Hizbullah guerrillas killed the commander of the elite Paratrooper Reconnaissance Unit and two other officers in a firefight.

"I see the chain of events over the past few days, the attack on the paratroopers, the Katyusha rockets, and the bombing of the convoy with Brig.-Gen. Gerstein as an escalation which demands a response," said OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy.

Soon after he spoke IAF jets were streaking over the border to carry out their bombing raids.

Netanyahu and Mofaz both emphasized that the IDF will continue to maintain the security zone until a better way to secure the North is agreed upon. If the soldiers weren't in the security zone, Netanyahu said, Hizbullah could have attacked a bus full of children.

"We have no interest in involving the Syrians in this war," he emphasized. "We want to see the Lebanese government send the Lebanese Army to the areas we vacate... We seek nothing but peace and security along the border with Lebanon.

See IDF, Page 2



Erez Gerstein (Avihu Shapira)



Omer Alkabetz (IDF Spokesman)



Ilan Roeh (Avihu Shapira)

(The photograph of Chief Warrant Officer Imad Abu Rish was not available by press time.)

Leaders trapped in analytical paralysis

ANALYSIS

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

The good news is that our Lebanese predicament, unlike our occupation of other territories, is not mired in ideological polemics or political bickering.

The bad news is that most our leaders, both incumbent and aspiring, are trapped in analytical paralysis, apparently shorn of that inventiveness which is indispensable for emerging swiftly from strategic traps.

The trap is simple: Sting, bludgeon, and humiliate the mighty but cumbersome IDF, the same way the Spaniards, Boers, Yugoslavs, Vietnamese, and Afghans effectively crippled the Napoleonic, British, Nazi, American, and Soviet superpowers.

Indeed, politicians now talking of "Hizbullah terrorism" disclose not only a semantic ignorance – what we are facing is usually harassment of soldiers, not civilians, by paramilitary squads – but also a deeper inability to adjust to changing circumstances.

The banal lesson military history offers is that, rather than seek ways to win a guerrilla war, the imperative here is to avoid this kind of confrontation, which we cannot win, and replace it with others in which we are more likely to have the upper hand.

In other words, considering that both Beirut and Damascus have made it plain that a negotiated IDF retreat is out of the question, for us to sit and wait for them to kindly change their minds and start reasoning with us is a guaranteed non-starter.

Paradoxically, they have grown fond of our occupation, which offers Hizbullah an abundance of vulnerable targets with the propaganda bonus reserved for modestly equipped freedom fighters facing what the enemy effectively portrays as a well supplied conqueror. It's time, therefore, to shift this struggle's center of gravity.

One thing that all pundits, politicians, and generals agree on is that the real enemy lurking behind Hizbullah sits in Damascus. Calling Hafez Assad to task is both feasible and long overdue. Assad has a major agenda in Lebanon, which has little to do with the minor one of harassing the IDF. For him, Lebanon is what Hong Kong was for Mao's China – a militarily toothless, but financially vibrant safety valve for a totalitarian regime's economic deformities.

Syria exports a moderately estimated 500,000 unemployed, unskilled workers to Lebanon's many grandiose post-civil war construction projects, and Assad allows in Beirut the kinds of economic freedoms – most notably the running of a stock market – which he forbids in Damascus.

All this primitive economics adds up to a potentially alternative arena to which we can relocate the conflict's current focus from cat-and-mouse chases in South Lebanon's wadis, slopes, and caves to Assad's – and Lebanon's – soft economic underbelly.

By destroying construction sites in Beirut, we can disrupt Lebanon's reconstruction process and pressure Syria's labor market as effectively as they threaten our supreme goal of preserving Israeli lives.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

Death by the roadside

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The convoy was winding its way down the mountain road back from a visit to the village of Kafr Shaba. As the lead – bullet-proof – Mercedes rounded the bend, a roadside bomb went off, sending the vehicle twisting into the air as a burning wreck.

The blast immediately killed its four occupants: Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, head of the IDF's Liaison Unit to south Lebanon, his faithful driver, Chief Warrant Officer Imad Abu Rish, and his radio operator, St.-Sgt. Omer Alkabetz, and Ilan Roeh, Israel Radio's veteran northern reporter.

The rest of the vehicles in the convoy came to a halt and deployed against more bombs.

"We found two more clusters of bombs ready to go off. I don't know why they were not detonated," said a senior officer on the convoy.

The attack came less than 300 meters from a UNIFIL camp manned by troops from its Indian contingent. IDF sources said the scene of the bombing was well within their view.

It took about four hours for IDF and SLA sappers to neutralize the unexploded bombs. The bodies were evacuated by vehicles. No helicopters were used, military sources said.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy said there was no indication that Hizbullah had prior knowledge of Gerstein's route. He said that Gerstein himself had actually changed his plans a few hours beforehand.

Ashkenazy said it was not clear when the bombs had been laid, but that a convoy had passed along the same road the day before. The blast occurred just south of the village of Kawka, which is inside the security zone.

Gerstein had been leading a convoy of senior IDF officers in south Lebanon to a routine visit to the village and SLA position nearby.

His deputy, Col. Shaul Kamisa, and the head of civilian aid, Col. Rafik Said, were also in the convoy.

"During the evacuation mortar fire started hitting in the ridges around us," said the witness.

In Beirut, Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, which raised to seven the number of Israeli troops killed in south Lebanon since the start of the year.

After Abdullah meeting, PM offers PA new deal

By LIAT COLLINS

AMMAN – Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu came up with a slightly different version of his "give-and-get" formula yesterday. Speaking at a press conference here following a meeting with King Abdullah II, he allowed for partial implementation of the Wye accords by Israel in return for partial compliance by the Palestinians.

"We have a simple proposal for the Palestinians and all those who want to test us and that is: Test us. Have the Palestinians complete all or part of the Wye accords, and we will either, in the case of full compliance, do our part, which is to hand over the additional 5 percent or we can find other areas of cooperating and implementation short of complete Palestinian implementation," Netanyahu said.

"This is a suggestion, a realistic and fair suggestion. I won't hide from you the fact that the Palestinians are not likely to take it up, because they would like, unfortunately, to have for the coming months at least the appearance and perception of no movement... I think that this is a mistake, but I can't influence their activities," he added.

Netanyahu met with Abdullah yesterday for their first time since their brief encounter at King Hussein's funeral. Also present were Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordanian Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu talks with King Abdullah II at Amman's Raghadan Palace yesterday. (AP)

According to official sources, Netanyahu said in the closed meeting that Israel, in principle, is willing to help ease the transport of goods from Jordan to the Palestinian Authority and also, at Jordan's request, he reportedly agreed to check the possibility of releasing some prisoners not being held for murder.

At the press conference, Netanyahu described Abdullah as "wise" and "strong," the regime as "stable," and the relationship as "exemplary."

The meeting was held in the shadow of reports of statements that Jordan might in the future again ally itself with Iraq made by Netanyahu at a lecture in Bar-Ilan University last week.

At the press conference, Tarawneh said, "I think that we have clarified the whole thing." Netanyahu stressed that the report was inaccurate. The Israeli Embassy in Amman also distributed copies of the speech before the press conference.

Netanyahu said he had appointed Sharon to coordinate the handling of bilateral issues, such as economic, energy, and commercial matters. Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir was also present.

Asked about relations with Syria and Iraq, Tarawneh said Jordan has a policy of maintaining relations with everybody. He said this policy could be beneficial to promoting comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Tarawneh was asked whether Jordan would invite the other candidates running for prime minister in the elections. He stressed that the Israeli elections are an internal affair in which Jordan would not be involved, but he said anyone who wanted to come would be welcome.

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NEWS

in brief

Man shot dead in Ramle

A 25-year-old man was shot and killed last night near his home in Ramle. The man was brought to Assaf Harofe Hospital in Tzrifin where he was pronounced dead after doctors failed to revive him.

Police said the man was apparently shot at close range, and that four suspects have been arrested. *Itim*

Kiryat Yam mayor assaulted

Kiryat Yam Mayor Benny Stelkol was pushed onto his desk yesterday morning in his office by a 68-year-old kiosk owner. Stelkol was lightly injured when his hand struck a glass that was on the table, and he also fell onto the floor.

The assailant, who was not further identified, was arrested.

The stand owner had apparently sought to expand his business, and had tried to do so without applying for a license from the local planning authority. *Itim*

Arutz 7 hearing delayed

The High Court yesterday decided to postpone today's scheduled hearing of the petitions against the law legalizing Arutz 7 and other pirate radio stations approved last week. The hearing has been rescheduled for March 8. Arutz 7 asked for the postponement because of the large number of petitions submitted on the matter. Amitai, a good government watchdog organization, yesterday joined earlier petitioners, including Meretz MK Haim Oron, Labor Party MK Eitan Cabel, and Radio North Holdings. *Dan Izenberg*

Jerusalem journalists' association gets new head

Israel Radio's Ya'acov Katzav has been elected as the new chairman of the Journalists Association-Jerusalem.

The result represents a turnaround following 20 years of chairmanship by representatives of Israel Television.

Katzav, a long-serving member on the association's committee, is a senior news editor at Israel Radio's Arabic department. He takes over from Elisha Spiegelman, a member of the Channel 1's *Mabat* news editorial staff, who was beaten by a substantial margin.

The Jerusalem Post is represented on the committee by Judy Montagu and Ori Lewis. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Wounded guard in critical condition

Soreg Geffen, the Israeli security guard unintentionally shot in the chest at the Israeli Embassy in Amman last week, was in critical condition and suffering from brain damage yesterday, Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem said. Geffen, shot during a training exercise by a fellow Israeli, was being treated at Hadassah's intensive care unit after undergoing three operations by an Israeli surgeon in Amman. He was flown back to Israel so his family could be near him. *Judy Siegel*

Kidnapper's lawyer says client fit to stand trial

An attorney for Or Katz, the woman suspected of kidnapping Ro'i Bar-Sadeh in Ramat Hasharon, said yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court that her client is capable of standing trial.

The attorney, Yael Grossman, also said that she was negotiating with prosecutors for a plea bargain. All the medical information regarding the case has been barred from publication. The court scheduled another session in two weeks.

Katz has been charged with kidnapping the boy and holding him for a day-and-a-half without giving him food or water. She is also charged with endangering the boy's life. *Itim*

Gore reiterates strong support for Israel

US Vice President Al Gore strongly reiterated his support for Israel in a speech to the American Jewish Congress in Philadelphia yesterday. "I am strongly committed... to standing by the State of Israel always, and especially when she takes risks for peace," Gore told about 250 people at the organization's dinner.

"Anyone who is a student of human history, anyone who understands the desire for freedom and self-determination, independence, and security in the face of oppression, must, in his or her heart of hearts, support Israel," Gore said. *AP*

Weizman to gov't: Pursue Syrian track

By BATSHEVA TSUR and NINA GILBERT

President Ezer Weizman last night called for talks with Syria, such a move being the best option to end to the quagmire in Lebanon.

"The best heads in the country, all the forces, all those with experience must get together [and find a way] to talk to the Syrians," Weizman said. "I believe it is possible to arrive at a solution" over Lebanon.

But he acknowledged that "this is not simple, no easy task."

"I have to be careful not to give advice to the government since there are those who get angry with me sometimes," Weizman said. "But I will; it's not that bad. I believe it is worthwhile for the next government to set itself a goal – perhaps of one year – during which time it will end the Lebanese affair."

Over the past year, the president has repeatedly urged talks with Damascus as the path to peace in Lebanon. Only last week, following the death of three officers in the Paratroop Reconnaissance Unit, Weizman called for a dialogue with the Syrians as the solution to the Lebanese situation.

Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai refrained yesterday from linking the attack in Lebanon to his elections agenda.

Mordechai would only say that the IDF should take action against any Hizbullah targets, and "to study well which targets would obtain the goals and not get into complications."

"I don't want to deal with elections. This is not the time to talk about elections, before our sons have been buried," he said in an interview with Channel 2. "Along with the need to hit the terrorists, a solution is needed, but this is not the time to talk about this."

On the other hand, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak told Channel 2 that the long-term solution to the Lebanon problem would be have to be reached via the politicians.

He said, there must be a "political leadership which will know how to remove our sons from Lebanon and ensure peace via far-reaching diplomatic moves."

Center Party No. 2 Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, recently retired as chief of General Staff, said he is sure a rapprochement could be initiated with both Syria and Lebanon simultaneously.

"Wiping out a village in Lebanon will not solve the problem. It could only bring a temporary quiet, but won't solve the problem," he said.

"A unilateral withdrawal won't give the solution to the reason for which we are fighting in Lebanon, but will only bring all of those elements that want to harm us to the border fence and will endanger IDF soldiers, and will eventually cost in terms of soldiers and also citizens of Israel," Shahak said on Channel 1.

He said a "condition for starting talks with Syria and Lebanon is a halt to all activities in south Lebanon."

Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, again called on Israel to make Syria bear the responsibility for the attacks. If IDF soldiers are killed by roadside bombs, "sending Syrian soldiers back to Damascus in coffins should not be ruled out," he said.

Landau said Israel must reexamine its Lebanon policy. "The current policy, the Grapes of Wrath understandings, gives the Syrians an incentive to engage in terror against Israel via non-Syrian territory. This is an invitation to terror and must be stopped," he said.

"Those who hurt us or our citizens must pay a heavy price. If we can't sleep peacefully in Kiryat Shmona, then they shouldn't do so either in Beirut," he added.

Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who backs a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, said that 162 soldiers have died in Lebanon under the Netanyahu government, including the helicopter disaster in 1997.

"This is more than the number killed since the security zone was established," he noted. "[Prime Minister] Binyamin Netanyahu must understand that he is responsible for sending our soldiers to Lebanon and their deaths there."

Beilin said that only a different government under Barak "can liberate Israel from the Lebanon trap and renew negotiations with Syria."

Meretz leader Yossi Meretz said Netanyahu, "him and no one else," is responsible for the continuation of the deadly attacks in south Lebanon for his refusal to negotiate with the Syrians.

"It is not clear why this shirker, Netanyahu, is promising negotiations with the Syrians after the elections, while he, the prime minister, can renew talks with the Syrians before the elections," Sarid said.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen said he holds the government responsible for "abandoning human lives in Lebanon" by "not lifting a finger to save them."

The government is not holding negotiations and is not withdrawing closer to the border and is thus shirking its responsibility and abandoning its sons, he said.

Leave Lebanon now, protesters demand

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Some 40 angry protesters caused a huge traffic jam in Tel Aviv yesterday, when they blocked the road in front of the Defense Ministry during a demonstration to demand that the IDF get out of Lebanon.

Chanting "There's a solution, get out of Lebanon" and waving posters with slogans like "Wake up! The next victim in Lebanon is liable to be your son," the protesters lay down in the middle of Rehov Kaplan after they set a tire on fire on the sidewalk.

Police directed traffic around the protesters and tried to limit the protest to two lanes of the four-lane road.

"This war is going on because the citizens are stupid," declared Yona Rochlein, one of the founders of Kav Adom (Red Line), which was founded on Saturday and advocates an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon.

As the protesters exchanged insults with annoyed drivers and asked them to join the protest, word slowly spread that three more soldiers and a reporter had just been killed in Lebanon.

"Our kids are killed every day for nothing," Zamira Poran shouted at a youth in a Purim costume who got out of a car to argue with her because he was frustrated with the delay.

Police arrested Shaul Tzedaka, a communications professor at Bar-Ilan University, after he tried to force his way into the ministry. A lawyer who joined the protest said that he managed to talk police out of arresting him after he poured gasoline over the tires.

Police dragged, pulled, and shoved several of the other protesters out of the street, causing one woman to fall, though they helped her up afterward.

Dganit Katz, one of the organizers, said the demonstration was set up after worried parents contacted her and others and said they had decided to take a more active role, instead of sitting idly at home.

"We are not like the Four Mothers movement. Many of those taking part today left them because they felt it was time to take action and keep Lebanon in the forefront until something is done. Not just when our boys are killed there," she said yesterday morning, before the news of the latest deaths.

Poran who took part in the demonstration said she was willing to do what ever it takes to get "our sons" out of Lebanon.

"I today am willing to play a radical role, even if it means lying in the street, in order to reach the decision makers and meet with those in charge," she said.

Poran said she recently spoke with a bereaved father who regretted that he had not taken a more active role in calling for a unilateral withdrawal and ensuring that "our children" get out of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Gabi Kfir, 52, whose son Omer serves in Lebanon and is due to be discharged in four months wrote to Defense Minister Moshe Arens offering to exchange places with his son. He said he believes there were many missions he could carry out despite his age. Only a handful of units actually go into battle in Lebanon, he said, adding there is no reason that he can't take over jobs being carried out by soldiers there.

"Our generation entered Lebanon and it is our generation that needs to wind up the issue. Our sons don't need to become casualties there because of our incapability to solve the Lebanese problem," he stated in his letter.

Kfir who lives in Ma'alot says he is against unilateral withdrawal but wants his son out of Lebanon.

"My son's future is before him, mine is in the past," he told Channel 1 yesterday.

Margot Dudkevitch contributed to this report.



Protesters outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday demand an immediate IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. (Reuters)

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

Such economic warfare can be done by air or sea and stands to gain little – actually, nothing – from our lumbering presence beyond the border.

Another, if less dramatic, arena is diplomacy. The real conqueror in Lebanon is Syria. An Israeli withdrawal would deprive Damascus of its excuse for occupying its neighbor, a founding member of the UN whose independence was never formally recognized by Damascus.

When the international community invaded Iraq in 1991, it was for Iraq's having done to Kuwait what Syria is doing to Lebanon, i.e. not just violating its sovereignty but altogether denying its right to exist as an independent state.

Once out of Lebanon, Israel will have the tools and legitimacy with which to concoct, whether openly or quietly, an ongoing effort to ostracize Syria diplomatically, so long as it pulls the strings of an actively belligerent Hizbullah. Considering its diligent efforts to curry Western favor following the demise of the Soviet Union, Damascus should mind an effort to, say, suspend its UN membership, the same way it minds its inclusion on the list of countries supporting terrorism.

As for us, our Lebanese dilemma ignores all traditional political fault lines, joining such ostensibly strange bedfellows as super-dove Yossi Beilin with arch-hawk Ariel Sharon in the pro-pullout camp, or Greater Israelite Uzi Landau with Oslo Accords co-architect Yossi Sarid in the anti-pullout camp.

Sharon is respected, even by his famously bitter opponents, as a master tactician. Beilin, by the same token, is universally admired as an impartial and original strategist. When they agree on something, particularly in the face of conventional wisdom, it probably means it will ultimately be done anyhow. So why wait?

IDF

Continued from Page 1

"We paid a very expensive price and a painful one," Netanyahu said.

"We have been paying this price for 20 some years. We are searching for a way to leave Lebanon that will meet all of our goals."

Mofaz expressed his condolences to the victims' families, before praising their many contributions to the IDF and called Gerstein "one of the best fighters in the IDF."

Thanks to the IDF forces in Lebanon, he said, residents of the North are living a normal life, "but this has a price. Today we played a high price... Everyone that's fighting there, that's located there, knows what he's fighting for... to guarantee the security of the North."

He asked the media not to help Hizbullah win the psychological war it is waging by building up its image.

The IDF is much stronger than Hizbullah and will succeed in the end, he said.

He also announced that Eli Amitai, who asked to replace Gerstein, has already assumed the post.

Mofaz also said that Gerstein had decided to take a different route than the one decided upon on Saturday night.

Palestinians bury Samiha Khalil, leading woman nationalist

By BEN LYNFIELD

With military trumpeters and condolences from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Palestinian activist Samiha Khalil, who promoted a mix of nationalism and women's self-sufficiency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was laid to rest in an al-Bireh cemetery yesterday.

While unknown to most Israelis, Khalil was renowned among Palestinians for founding and heading the Inash el-Usrah welfare society, which trained thousands of Palestinian women in sewing, typing, cooking, and other skills. It also promoted consciousness of the Palestinian heritage.

Most of the society's activities were halted by the IDF for two years in 1988 for "propaganda and incitement to violence" against Israel and the IDF.

Khalil, who insisted on being called "auntie" by students but was also known as a tough disciplinarian, was arrested six times without charges. The IDF placed her under house arrest for two-and-a-half years during the early 1980s.

What Israeli authorities saw as criminal behavior and troublemaking, Palestinians viewed as heroism and patriotism. More than 1,500 people turned out in the rain for the funeral, and many of them had personal stories about how Khalil had sent clothes to their children in prison, provided them with money and sympathy when a child was slain in a clash with Israeli troops, or taught them a skill that helped them make a living.

"Her work is everywhere, she affected thousands of people," said Hanan Amer, who learned secretarial skills in Khalil's institute and went on to teach typing there.

Khalil raised eyebrows when she challenged Arafat for the Palestinian Authority presidency during the 1996 elections. Knowing she had no chance of winning, she said repeatedly: "I'm opening the way for others." She won about 10 percent of the vote.

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هكذا من الأعلى

Israel Radio reporter Ilan Roeh killed in action

By DAVID RUDGE

The tears shed were not just for Ilan, a colleague and a friend, or for Erez, a commander with a kind face and heart who were killed along with two others in the Hizbullah roadside bomb attack.

The tears were also for all the others, some of whose faces have become blurred with time and some whose features are still too deeply etched in the memory that to remember is painful.

Journalists are not supposed to have emotions. According to the stereotype, they are simply there to record, report, and relay the news, in as an objective a way as possible.

Ilan Roeh, 32, was, on the surface, the archetype journalist: the true professional whose creed and motto was to seek, uncover, and reveal the news as well as the story behind the headlines.

He began his career some eight years ago on a Holon local paper, then worked the police beat for Ilim before reporting on economics for the defunct *Hadashot* and then joining Israel Radio. He was universally described by his colleagues as a talented, fast-working professional.

He was also a person, a loving son and husband to Sharon, who at one stage in his life smoked and ate too much. He cut out the cigarettes and went on a diet after being informed that both could damage his health.

That did not stop him covering the news. On the contrary – he was there, many times before the rest of us, in order to be the first to report the story.

It was important for him, like many of us, to be personally acquainted with the IDF and South Lebanese Army outposts in the security zone and the troops manning them – in order to get a feel for the area and for the people there. To this end, he moved to Kibbutz Hukok near Tiberias.

I can recall, only too vividly, the numerous meetings at Northern Command headquarters, the briefings after fatalities in south Lebanon, the trips into the security zone. There was always the friendly slap on the back, the smile, and "What's happening?" before donning the flak jacket and helmet and listening as carefully as always to the IDF's instructions and regulations prior to clambering aboard the armored Safari truck, or whatever other vehicle was conveying us to the appointed place.

The IDF and SLA's headquarters in Marjayoun was a regular meeting place. To go there was routine, despite the dangers. To interview the visiting VIPs, SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and senior officers, was part and parcel of the job.

It was also important, however, to speak with the soldiers, both from the IDF and the SLA, as well as the residents of the security zone, to get a better understanding of their feelings and thoughts. Ilan, like many of us, did both.

During a hectic drive together from Metulla to Kiryat Shmona to report on Katyusha rockets hitting the northern city during Operation Grapes of Wrath, I happened to remark to Ilan how "stupid" we must be, instead of taking shelter, but chasing after the rockets and the story.

Ilan replied: "You're right, but we are journalists and we are immune, because we have to report the news."

But Ilan is no more. Though he died covering the news, the Defense Ministry recognized his death as if he were a soldier killed in action; a full military funeral is to be held.

The tears could be construed as being a normal emotional reaction in such circumstances, until comes a sobering and powerful thought, frightening in its simplicity: it could just as easily have been you.

That is the reality of Lebanon and covering events along the northern border. Ilan was as acutely aware of this as any of us, but it did not prevent him from doing his job professionally, while remaining a gentleman in the true meaning of the word.

Little damage as moshav hit by Katyusha fire

The remains of two Katyusha rockets were discovered in Moshav Magaliot yesterday morning, the IDF Spokesman said.

One rocket exploded, knocking out telephone lines and damaging a nearby home and car, and the second was found unexploded near the entrance to the moshav, Army Radio said.

Paramedics treated one woman for shock.

Rahel Marjani told the radio that an explosion woke her at 2:30 a.m., knocking out power lines and shattering the windows of her house.

"I jumped out of bed," she said. "I saw the light [of the blast] from inside the house... I saw a mess on the terrace: everything was destroyed."

Security forces combed the area yesterday morning, searching for additional rockets.

Lebanese officials meanwhile claimed that two Lebanese youths were hurt by IDF fire outside Arnoun, a village that Israel has tried to incorporate into the security zone.

Mohammed Alayk, 14, and Mazen Abu Zaid, 11, were among a group of youths trying to erect Lebanese flags on a hill outside Arnoun when they came under gunfire from the IDF position in the overlooking Beaufort Castle, the officials said.

Alayk and Abu Zaid were taken to hospital with light wounds, the officials said.

Prime Minister Selim Hoss visited Arnoun yesterday in a show of solidarity with the villagers. It was the first time a prime minister has visited the front line in the south.

On Friday, some 2,000 college students and local residents cut down the barbed-wire fences with which the IDF had ringed Arnoun earlier this month. The village is five kilometers north of the border. (AP)



Rahel Marjani, 52, yesterday holds up a piece of a Katyusha rocket which landed about four meters from her home in Moshav Margaliot Saturday night. (Avihu Shapira/Israel Sun)

An outspoken combat veteran

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein was combat rich Golani Brigade veteran who never hesitated to speak his mind during his tenure as the chief liaison officer in Lebanon. He was the highest ranking IDF officer killed in action since the Lebanon War in 1982.

The last time a brigadier general was killed was last March 15, when Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar and a young lieutenant were killed after their Cobra helicopter broke in half and crashed at sea.

In 1982, Maj.-Gen. Yekutiel Adam, deputy chief of General Staff and designated to be head of the Mossad, was shot down by Palestinian gunmen in Lebanon.

Gerstein, 38, made waves last year when, as the newly appointed commander in south Lebanon, he said Israelis calling for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon were endangering the lives of soldiers serving there.

He also said protests in Tel Aviv by groups like the Four Mothers or the Movement for a Peaceful Departure from Lebanon threatened no only the troops, "but sometimes threaten me personally."

The former OC Golani Brigade had seen years of service in Lebanon and boasted last year that Hizbullah had suffered a blow from the IDF and SLA forces. He once said that Hizbullah's ranks had become so decimated of veteran fighters it can no longer mount a sustained attack on outposts or soldiers in the security zone, and so most of its attacks are by mortar.

Gerstein was the IDF officer with the closest contacts with the South Lebanese Army and had his headquarters in Marjayoun. At the time, Gerstein had said that the growing momentum of the public debate of the IDF's presence in Lebanon is causing some SLA fighters to question their continued loyalty.

"You must understand that someone who is afraid you will get up and leave him in a unilateral action won't be prepared to work with you and may well go to the other side," Gerstein said.

Gerstein's predecessor, Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai, survived at least three attacks while serving as commander of IDF forces in Lebanon. He was wounded twice in his two year's duty in south Lebanon. Amitai was later very seriously injured in an automobile accident in the West Bank.

Roeh joins handful of others who died covering wars

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The death of Israel Radio reporter Ilan Roeh in Lebanon yesterday is believed to be the fourth death of an Israeli journalist covering combat, according to National Federation of Israeli Journalists chairman Arye Avneri.

A cameraman was killed in the Sinai Campaign, and reporters were killed covering both the Yom Kippur War and Six Day War, Avneri said.

Journalist Yossi Endor of Channel 2 and his cameraman both suffered serious injuries while covering the disturbances surrounding the opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel, a federation official said.

"This just goes to show that Israeli journalists have always done their jobs faithfully, and we have never encountered journalists who were afraid to go out on raids or accompany units into battle," Avneri said.

About a year ago, following the death of a civilian truck driver in Lebanon, the army instituted tough new regulations regarding civilians entering Lebanon, including journalists.

This includes a requirement to sign a waiver of any government or state responsibility for anything that might befall them, one correspondent said yesterday.

In addition, the IDF made it very difficult for reporters to get into Lebanon, citing security and other concerns, often forcing reporters to wait for hours in the North before they could enter, if permission was forthcoming at all.

Nonetheless, especially of late, reporters have been pushing for access to Lebanon.

National Federation of Israeli Journalists officials said reporters now entering Lebanon or pursuing other dangerous stories are generally insured by their employers. An attempt to arrange special insurance for journalists by the federation was unsuccessful, they said.

Alkabetz fought to remain in combat

St.-Sgt. Omer Alkabetz, 22, was the radio operator in Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein's vehicle when it ran over a Hizbullah mine in Lebanon yesterday. His grief-stricken family gathered in their Rehovot home to try to absorb the news of his death.

His sister, Shira, 24, recalled that he used to reassure the family about his army service by describing himself as "just a security guard in Metulla," facing no danger.

A former boy scout leader, he chose to perform a year's voluntary service in the scouts before joining the army. During this time he set up a scout troop in Or Yehuda. "He gave his all to the scouts," said his sister. "He was unusually talented."

Alkabetz joined the army at 19 and served for the first 14 months in the Golani Brigade's reconnaissance unit. After tearing a tendon, his physical profile was lowered while he underwent several operations and a long course of physiotherapy to restore his previous condition.

His sister related that he went through eight medical boards until he won reclassification at the top profile of 97 and could rejoin his unit. Hearing of his successful struggle to recover his combat fitness, Gerstein invited him to join the liaison unit.

On his last visit home a week ago, family members said they tried to dissuade Alkabetz from remaining in a combat unit, and his parents promised to visit him on the border. He asked them not to, his sister said, because he did not want to trouble them. As for remaining in combat, he told them: "Somebody has to do the job." (Itim)

Druse victim knew South Lebanon inside out

The Druse village of Yarka was in deep mourning yesterday after learning of the death of Chief Warrant Officer Imad Abu Rish, who grew up there.

Abu Rish, 34, served as the personal driver for the head of the South Lebanese liaison unit, Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, who was also killed in yesterday's attack. A former head of the liaison unit, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Amal Asad said yesterday that Abu Rish was a prominent figure in the unit who knew every nook and cranny in South Lebanon.

Yarka Local Council Head Yehav Hadish said Abu Rish did not know the meaning of fear.

"He was full of life, full of love. He was a young man who loved everyone and everyone loved him," he said.

Abu Rish originally left the army after his three-year regular service, but returned to the IDF three years ago to become a career soldier. He had also been studying business administration.

(Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim)

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Elections

Labor readies for stormy central committee session

By SARAH HONIG

Today's scheduled Labor Party session on co-opting Knesset candidates to the One Israel list was postponed, due to the situation in Lebanon. The potentially explosive session is to be held on Thursday.

The new non-Labor candidates will be pushing veteran Laborites down to slots which may be unsafe or unrealistic. This is generating fierce opposition, especially among candidates who had won marginal slots in the recent primaries.

These candidates want the central committee session put off so that they can formulate a proposal for co-opting only Gesher's David Levy and a single Meimad member. According to the deals already reached with Levy's Gesher faction, he will be placed third on the list and will be able to place two more Gesher candidates between the 20th and 30th slots. Meimad will get slots 17, 30, and 38, as well as a promise for a ministerial appointment on condition that the minister not be an MK.

Still hanging over Labor is the possibility that a deal will be struck with Bat Yam contractor Shlomi Lahiani, who is angry because party chairman Ehud Barak reneged on his original offer of the 11th slot and is now offering only the 34th.

Opponents of all these deals promise a very heated committee session and maintain that none of the individuals or groups co-opted into One Israel have any hope of entering the Knesset on their own. Hence their ability to bring votes to Labor is unproven.

They further argue that the co-options are part of a masquerade in which Barak wants to blur his association with Labor, which he considers a liability. Hence his desire to decorate the list with none – Laborites, replace Labor on the ballot with One Israel, and even change the familiar Labor initials (Emet) on the ballot.

ELECTIONS

notebook

Stern, Nudelman to run with Lieberman

MKs Yuri Stern and Michael Nudelman, who broke away from Yisrael Ba'aliya, will run together with Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party in the coming elections, Stern said yesterday.

However, negotiations are continuing on whether they will form a coalition of two parties under the Yisrael Beiteinu umbrella or reach some other arrangement. The exact spots on the list are also still being negotiated, Stern said, although they will be "key positions," to be determined by the end of the month. The party platform will be produced jointly, with a joint campaign headquarters, Stern said. He predicted that with Lieberman, the joint party could win 4–5 seats from Russian voters, with additional strength among non-Russians. "We weighed other options, but eventually decided to unite, because we came to the conclusion that having three Russian parties would mean that all three might collapse," Stern explained. He and Nudelman met with Lieberman yesterday, and last night Lieberman was due to appear before supporters of the pair. Asked how he felt about Lieberman's attacks on various government institutions, Stern said these stemmed from Lieberman's "difficult personal experience," and does not reflect the party platform. "We also have serious criticism, particularly of the police," Stern said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Dozens of Likud votes illegal

A preliminary check of the voter lists from the Likud central committee's election of party Knesset candidates has found that dozens of state workers took part in the voting, in violation of Civil Service Commission regulations. Ten senior government employees, who are barred from belonging to a central committee, were also found to have voted, the commission said yesterday.

Commission spokesman Arye Grinblatt said the commission is still waiting to receive lists from Meretz, Yisrael Ba'aliya, and the National Religious Party. Grinblatt said the check of the Likud list is not yet complete, but those who voted against commission regulations would be called in for questioning next week. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein is to handle violations by government corporation workers, he noted. The violators face disciplinary hearings, with the repercussions ranging from warnings to fines or dismissal. Grinblatt said the investigation into alleged violations by Aviv Bushinsky, the prime minister's spokesman, has not yet been concluded. *Nina Gilbert*

Meretz to open branches in 'Likud territory'

Meretz announced yesterday that it had decided to open branches in neighborhoods considered Likud strongholds. The party said the move is in response to requests from public housing residents.

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) authored the Public Housing Law passed in October, which was frozen by the government for two years. Instead, the government has now launched an alternative program aimed at saving money. Last night, Meretz MKs held a meeting with the housing activists from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ashdod, Kiryat Gat, Acre, and Kiryat Yam. *Nina Gilbert*

Katsav: Labor should flip coin to decide name

Likud campaign chairman Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav suggested yesterday that the Labor Party might as well flip a coin to determine the new letters of its ballot slip, instead of trying to change the traditional "emet" name through a survey, as he said it intends to do. Katsav called on Labor to hold a fair and issues-oriented campaign, in which the parties stick to their economic and political platforms. He said Labor Party leader Ehud Barak is trying to imitate certain Likud positions in order to obscure differences between the rival parties. Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who is heading the Likud's publicity campaign, said: "Labor is running away from the letters in its ballot slip." (The letters "emet" spell out the word for truth.) She added that "the Likud will present a campaign which includes all its political and ethical positions."

Katsav noted that Likud campaign offices are scheduled to open all across the country in two weeks' time. *Itim*

Shas: Meretz breaking amulet ban

Shas filed a complaint against Meretz to the Central Elections Committee yesterday, saying it is breaking the elections law by distributing hand-shaped hamsa amulets with the Prayer for the Home.

MK Ran Cohen, who sponsored the Public Housing law, initiated the distribution of the hamsas in public housing neighborhoods. Shas, meanwhile, said it would avoid giving out amulets this campaign. In the complaint, Shas noted that the elections law bans the distribution of gifts, and the hamsas with the blessings that fall under that category. It said that Cohen is attempting to "lure in supporters among traditional voters who are not among Meretz's electorate."

Shas added that the move shows that "Meretz is practicing a double standard, seeing that in the past it led the campaign against the distribution of amulets." Judge Eliahu Mazza is to consider the complaint on Thursday. *Nina Gilbert*

Mordechai: No rush to pick Center list

By SARAH HONIG

There will be no Center Party Knesset list this week and the process of picking and ranking candidates may take a long time, according to party No.1 Yitzhak Mordechai.

"There is no rush," he declared yesterday.

"We will take as long as necessary and no one should hold his breath."

Mordechai also said that "all sorts of threats will not do anyone any good here."

He was referring to statements by a number of would-be candidates that if they are not placed high on the list, they will not run and will sit out the campaign.

Also in the background is the escalating conflict between the party's leading quartet – Mordechai, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor, and Ronni Milo.

The talk is that Meridor especially might rethink his role in the party if he is unable to win safe slots for his allies – MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), Shmuel Slavin (who served as Meridor's director-general in the Treasury), and MK David Magen (Gesher).

The Center Party has no institutions to choose its candidates, and the process, due to formally begin this morning, will consist of haggling among the top four.

The idea is for the four to deliberate each slot and reach an understanding regarding whom it will go to.

In the event of a tie, Mordechai has declared that he will have a double vote.

Because of this, Mordechai has become the address for most of the would-be candidates who are coming to him with requests for his support.

Only the first dozen slots are considered safe and only six of them are open (apart from the top four, slots six and seven went to Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff and Nehama Ronen).

Over a dozen prominent candidates are seeking these slots, as well as other lesser known ones. Among them are five serving MKs – Lubotzky, Magen, Nissim Zvilli and Haggai Merom (both Labor) and Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet).

Magen is seeking the fifth slot, as is Uri Savir, former Foreign Ministry director-general and one of the architects of the Oslo Accords.

Magen is backed by Meridor and Savir by Shahak. Competing for the "religious slot" are Lubotzky and Yehuda Ben-Meir of Meimad. Ben-Meir is backed by Milo.

The fear in the party is that the process is sure to leave plenty of malcontents and sow division among the top four.

This could well culminate in walkouts or the formation of warring camps.



Third Way MK Yehuda Harel (right) answers a question at yesterday's Tel Aviv press conference, as party leader Avigdor Kahalani looks on. (Mati Milstein/Israel Sun)

Third Way: We're running alone

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

The Third Way is running independently, the party announced yet again yesterday at a press conference in Tel Aviv.

Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani and MK Yehuda Harel also revealed the party's new campaign slogans: "We're here because of the Golan." "The Third Way is the only one that will protect the Golan," and "I'm against leaving the Golan. What about you?"

"All of the candidates for prime minister have said that they would negotiate with Syria, and the price of that is already known," Third Way spokesman Dani Leibovitch said, adding that voting for the Third Way is the voters' opportunity to influence the government's decision on the issue.

Leibovitch said he is not concerned about polls predicting the party won't pass the threshold to win a Knesset seat, noting that the polls said the same thing before the last election, in which the party won four seats.

"We're out in the field and we don't feel a drop in support," he said.

The Third Way's 250-member council is scheduled to elect its list of candidates on March 15.

Shinui to run independently

By NINA GILBERT

After failing to find enough common ground to join forces with another party, Shinui announced yesterday it would run independently in the elections.



Avraham Poraz (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Party leader MK Avraham Poraz said, however, that the party would team up with other "groups that have a similar ideology," such as those in the business sector representing the middle class and those "determined to fight against religious and haredi coercion."

Poraz said talks were held via Dan Meridor on joining the Center Party, but a union was not possible due to the actions of party leader Yitzhak Mordechai. "The first thing he did was go to kiss Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Then he voted in favor of blocking non-Orthodox Jews from religious councils," Poraz said. "From that point, it was all over."

"The Center Party is trying to placate the haredim, whereas we are determined to fight against religious coercion and the middle class financing the haredi sector," he added.

Poraz is expected to be elected party leader later this month. Possible candidates for the Shinui list are Am Hofshi co-chairman Yossi Paritzky and ex-Meretz MK Walid Sadek. Am Hofshi is an organization that fights for secular rights.

Poraz said he has surveys which show Shinui will win three mandates.

Shinui, whose official name has been Shinui – The Center Party since 1980, has appealed against the use of the name Center Party by Mordechai's group. In the past two elections, in 1992 and 1996, Shinui ran on the Meretz joint list, but decided two years ago against merging with the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam into Meretz.

"We couldn't accept the direction it was taking," Poraz said. The main point of disagreement is Meretz's liberal socio-economic philosophy, whereas Shinui is firm on keeping government interference in the economy to a minimum.

One of the Meretz-backed laws which Shinui has especially opposed is the Public Housing Law, under which residents are eligible to buy their homes at sizable discounts at a cost of hundreds of millions of shekels to the government.

In the 1988 elections, Shinui won two seats. One of its founders, MK Amnon Rubinstein, has stayed with Meretz.

The party was established in 1974, in the aftermath of the public outcry over the blunders of the Yom Kippur War.

Don't forget the environment

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

One after another, they repeated the same plea: Don't forget the environment when you vote.

"In other countries this is a major issue," said Yosef Tamir, chairman of Life and Environment, the umbrella organization for the country's green movements. Here, the environment has barely been mentioned during the election campaign; environmental laws aren't enforced; and courts give ridiculously low sentences to the few who are prosecuted, he complained.

Technion researchers, environmental activists, and Environment Ministry officials ticked off the various environmental problems that Israel must address, and representatives of several parties spoke about their plans regarding these problems at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Yoav Sagi, former head of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, said there is a need for legislation that would protect green areas from developers and for trains to connect outlying areas to the center.

Roni Kumar, of the Environment Ministry, said that the ministry does not have the government's support to enforce the laws and also does not provide it with sufficient funds. This won't change until a senior political figure champions environmental issues, the way Vice President Al Gore did in the US.

Nehama Ronen, No. 7 on the Center Party's list and former director-general of the Environment Ministry, said she hopes that as as MK she'll be able to increase awareness of environmental issues.



Makuya march in Jerusalem

Kawashima Kazuki from Tokyo dances with Adam Silver from California in downtown Jerusalem during yesterday's march of the Makuya, a denomination of Japanese Christians who support Israel. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

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PM, Arens differ on reason for closure

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu differed with Defense Minister Moshe Arens about Palestinian security cooperation yesterday, and each cited different reasons for the closure imposed on the territories.

Netanyahu said the four-day closure, which went into effect at midnight yesterday, was necessary because the Palestinian Authority is not fulfilling its commitments to fight terrorism, particularly Hamas.

"They haven't lifted a finger... against Hamas," Netanyahu told Army Radio.

By contrast, Arens said there is effective security cooperation with the PA.

"We have cooperation today, I would say, on a good level," Arens told Israel Radio. "It's clear that the PA is not interested in terrorist attacks."

The borders with the territories are traditionally closed around holidays.

Arens said that a major reason for the closure was warnings of terrorist attacks around Purim.

Arens said soldiers would allow VIPs and people seeking emergency medical treatment through the checkpoints. (AP)



A Bethlehem women protests after border policemen yesterday prevented her from entering Jerusalem during the closure of the territories.
(Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

PA official fumes that son denied entry to Israel

By AMY KLEIN

The Border Police prevented a disabled nine-year-old boy from entering Jerusalem to receive medical treatment yesterday. The boy is the son of Tawfiq Tirawi, the head of Palestinian intelligence in the West Bank.

Tirawi said his son was in a car accident three years ago and comes to Jerusalem for weekly physical therapy sessions.

"I am so angry, so upset, that in the closure they can't even let a sick child through," he said.

The policemen said they had acted in accordance with the law, because the Tirawis did not have the proper entry papers.

The boy's mother, who was travelling with him, had failed to produce a special permit needed at the time of closure and the case was not a health emergency, the police said.

Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub said the closure was imposed as a form of collective punishment on the Palestinian people, not because Israel received warnings of attacks.

News agencies contributed to this report.

'Chained women' to picket Rabbinate today

By AMY KLEIN

Aliza Ben-Ami has come to the end of the road. Married at age 20, Ben-Ami, now 35, filed for a *get*, a religious bill of divorce, 11 years ago after suffering constant physical abuse. Though it has been eight months since the rabbinate imprisoned her husband, he still refuses to give her a get.

Ben-Ami will be one of the speakers at today's demonstration at the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem in support of *agunot* – literally "chained women," whose husbands refuse to grant a Jewish divorce.

The 10 a.m. rally, sponsored by the International Coalition for Agunot (ICAR), also marks the pre-Purim Fast of Esther, which has been designated the International Day of Solidarity with Agunot.

Speakers include Alice Shalvi, founder of the Israel Women's Network, City Councilwoman Anat Hoffman, and Hadassah president Marlene Post.

"We are fasting and demonstrating as Queen Esther did before Purim, for women who find themselves confined by the same Jewish laws Esther sought to preserve," said Elana Sztokman, ICAR spokeswoman and member of Dead End, a volunteer organization which provides legal funds and big-sisters to support agunot.

The demonstration aims to raise public awareness to the plight of agunot, said Sztokman. ICAR wants the Rabbinate to institute pre-nuptial agreements, marriage annulments, and coerced divorce, all which have halachic precedent and would prevent or solve many of the cases in Israeli today.

Vastly different figures are bandied about for the number of agunot in Israel. Religious Courts director Rabbi Elihu Ben-Dahan said there are 15 women whose husbands cannot be served papers because they cannot be located or no proof exists of their deaths. Dahan said this is a drastic improvement over the 400 who existed a few years ago.

However, when he includes those in the "denied divorce" category, Dahan said there are more than 600 a year. Women's organizations estimate about 10,000 agunot in Israel.

For two and a half years rabbinical courts have had the right to impose sanctions on recalcitrant husbands, including preventing them from leaving the country, receiving a passport or professional license, being hired by the Civil Service, local authorities, army or police, or opening a bank account.

According to the Rabbinate, sanctions have been used against 145 men, 15 of whom have been imprisoned. Nearly a third of cases in which sanctions were imposed resulted in a get.

IWN spokeswoman Orit Sultz-eanu said many women are careful not to criticize the Rabbinate, and are careful to emphasize that today's gathering is a "rally in show of support, rather than a demonstration against the Rabbinate."

"We are looking for technical loopholes to fight within the system," said Susan Weiss, a divorce lawyer and founder of Yad Laisha, which provides discounted legal representation in the religious courts for agunot.

Alleged wife beater stabs spouse, in-laws

By AMY KLEIN

A man, recently released after being arrested for beating his wife, allegedly stabbed her and her parents yesterday in the East Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Police arrested Ron Abergil, 25, a few hours after the stabbings.

According to police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby, Abergil telephoned his in-laws yesterday morning and threatened his wife. He then went to their house and cut the telephone and electric connections.

When his mother-in-law went out to check, he stabbed her twice in the chest. He then ran inside and attacked his wife, slicing her face with a knife.

Fleeing the apartment, he ran into his father-in-law. After stabbing him in the backside he took off in a cab. Police located the cab in front of the Jerusalem International Convention Center on the way out of Jerusalem and found Abergil, knife in hand.

According to police, his wife filed a complaint against him in January for beating her. Following a second complaint this month, police arrested Abergil.

He was released with a court order forbidding him from coming to Jerusalem for a week.

Meanwhile, she moved into her parents' East Talpiot apartment, and they received a restraining order against him visiting the apartment. Abergil was also once arrested for attacking a policeman. The couple have two children.

The Israel Women's Network spokeswoman, reacting to the incident, said: "We see again that the judges are merciful – merciful to the men, until they kill their wives. The only mercy towards women is harsh punishment of wife beaters. Only that will reduce the amount of family violence."

Slovakians seek 'new chapter' in relations

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jaroslav Chlebo, state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, is here on an official visit "to start a new chapter in our relationship with Israel and to convey the priorities of the recently elected government."

Chlebo told the press yesterday that "the image of Slovakia is deteriorating in the world," adding that the new Slovak government intends to put Slovakia back on the fast track toward EU, NATO, and OECD membership. He admitted, however, that Slovakia's entry into the EU is not something for the foreseeable future. At best, it would take three to four years.

As far as Israel is concerned, Slovakia is looking for investors for coproduction, joint ventures, and mutual approaches to third markets. An overture has been made to shipping and real estate tycoon Yuli Ofer, who will reportedly visit Slovakia to check investment opportunities. Ofer already has other East European investments.



Jaroslav Chlebo
(Arjel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

To encourage Israeli investment, Slovakia is signing agreements with Israel for the prevention of double taxation and for the promotion and protection of investments.

Slovakia is also establishing a joint commission of Israeli and Slovakian historians to create a better syllabus for the teaching of Jewish history in Slovakian schools and universities.

Slovakia is proud of the fact that it has returned Jewish community assets to the 5,000-member Jewish community, and that efforts are under way to upgrade these properties which fell into neglect under the Communist regime.

Chlebo met yesterday with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur. He was accompanied by Ambassador Maros Sefcovic, who arrived here from Brussels only last December.

Conservative shul vandalized

By AMY KLEIN

Vandals defaced a Conservative synagogue in the Ramot neighborhood of Jerusalem yesterday, because of a haredi man's participation in the services.

"We will not let yeshiva students pray here," and "We will get you for this," were among some of the graffiti spray-painted across the front doors, walls, and windows of Congregation Ya'ar Ramot.

Congregation president Hilary Herzberger discovered the graffiti yesterday morning.

"The name of someone who joined our congregation was also painted. It was obviously aimed at him," said Herzberger, who wanted to protect the congregant's identity.

She said the man belonged to a haredi community in the area, and dresses in a dark suit and wears a black velvet kippa.

He joined the congregation about eight months ago, attending services on Friday night and Saturday.

"He is very happy with us," Herzberger said. "It's obviously someone from his world."

"I feel that now more than ever people have to be aware of what's going on, and that people should not stay silent."

She gave as an example author Amos Oz, who recently joined the Reform Movement following haredi attacks on the courts.

Ninety families belong to Congregation Ya'ar Ramot, which was founded about 15 years ago and is affiliated with the Conservative Movement.

WORLD

in brief

Ethiopia declares victory in Eritrean war

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) – The Ethiopian government yesterday declared "total victory" in its border war with Eritrea after recapturing the contested Badme region, but Eritrea said fighting continued.

On Saturday, in the face of military losses, Eritrea told the UN Security Council it accepted a peace plan drawn up by the Organization of African Unity which Ethiopia had already endorsed. Despite international calls for an immediate cease-fire, Eritrean presidential adviser Yermane Gebremeskel said Ethiopia launched a fresh assault at 11 a.m. yesterday along the 60-km. Badme front in the highlands. He later added it was "on a much smaller scale than the last few days."

Ethiopian government spokeswoman Selome Taddesse said that allegation was a "pure and simple lie aimed at hoodwinking public opinion," adding there was "no Eritrean force to fight against in Badme."

Nigeria's Obasanjo heads for disputed win

LAGOS (Reuters) – Nigeria's former military ruler Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo is certain to regain power he relinquished 20 years ago after most presidential election results were announced yesterday.

But opponent Olu Falae disputed results which showed him more than five million votes behind after 25 million ballot papers had been counted from 31 of Nigeria's 36 states.

Foreign observers expressed serious concern over rigging at the ballot on Saturday, but singled out neither camp as particular cheats in the voting to end 15 years of crippling military rule in Africa's most populous nation.

Zambia on security alert after bombs

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) – Zambian officials said yesterday police and troops were deployed in Lusaka after bombs exploded in and around the capital city of three million people.

"We are treating this as a security crisis and all our security and armed forces are on full alert," Legal Affairs Minister Vincent Malambo told Reuters by telephone.

One Angolan security guard was killed and another man wounded when a bomb rocked the Angolan embassy at about 11 a.m., he said.

The main water pipeline into Lusaka was cut off in an earlier explosion, leaving the city without water, Malambo said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

US aircraft fired upon, retaliate over Iraq

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – US planes bombed sites in northern Iraq yesterday after coming under Iraqi anti-aircraft fire, a US military spokesman said.

A flight of US F-15E aircraft were fired upon at 1:55 p.m. Iraqi time, according to Capt. Mike Blass, a spokesman for the US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

In retaliation, the US planes fired three air-to-ground missiles and three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defense headquarters and radio relay site.

A short time later F-15E aircraft dropped two 500-pound and three 2,000-pound laser guided bombs.

Both incidents occurred near the city of Mosul, Blass said.

Fighting, refugees, mark Kosovo anniversary

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) – One Serbian policeman was killed and four were wounded in southern Kosovo yesterday as government forces battled with separatist ethnic Albanian guerrillas on the first anniversary of the war here.

International observers said between 2,000 and 3,000 ethnic Albanian refugees, who fled the fighting around Kacanik, 15 km. north of the Macedonian border, were prevented by Serbian authorities from crossing over as refugees.

The observers also reported finding two bodies about 20 km. outside Orahovac. It was not known if they were two Serb woodcutters who went missing on Saturday.

Iran slams US human rights report

TEHERAN (Reuters) – Iran yesterday angrily rejected a US State Department report rating the country's human rights record as "poor" despite some recent improvements.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the report was designed to distract public opinion from human rights abuses in the US, and showed Washington's continued hostility toward Iran.

"American society is more than ever suffering from startling human rights abuses, such as racism, xenophobia, and the regular violation of the rights of children and women," he said in remarks broadcast on television. "Protecting the rights of Iranian citizens both inside and outside the country remains a cornerstone of the Islamic Republic's policies."

Japan carries out historic transplant

TOKYO (Reuters) – Japanese doctors yesterday carried out the nation's first heart transplant in 31 years.

The operation at Osaka University hospital in western Japan was also the first transplant of organs from a donor legally defined as brain dead under a 1997 law.

Doctors removed the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and corneas of the donor, a 44-year-old woman who had been in a coma after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.

Her heart was transplanted to a 44-year-old man in an operation that hospital officials described as successful.

Doctors plan to use the other organs, except for the lungs, for other patients.

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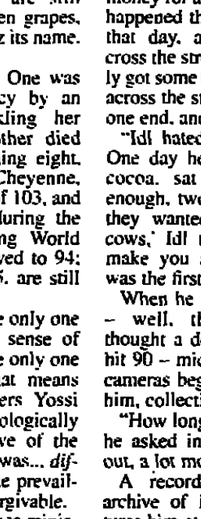
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Memories of Idl

Not Page One


Sam Orbaum

They laughed at Idl's funeral. "Did you hear the one about Idl and the bathroom clerk? He went into Jerusalem and he had to use the bathroom. So he went to the bus station, and a man said he had to pay a shekel. He was amazed: 'I have to pay to pee?!' He said to the man, 'I only need a minute. But if you come to me, to Kiryat Anavim. I'll give you something to eat, I'll show you around, you can pee, it'll cost you nothing.' The man let him in."

When Idl died a month ago, all the Idl stories came out, and in death as in life, he had 'em chuckling.

"With Idl, you could never tell. At times, he'd be talking seriously, but laughing inside. Or he would tell you a serious story, but laughing."

Yehuda "Idl" Ben-Avraham (1899-1999) fell five months short of his 100th birthday. With his demise ends a remarkable era: He was the last of the founding generation of Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim. The first settlers, including his two older brothers, were an organic group of 25 pioneers who came en masse in the early '20s – all from the environs of a Ukrainian shtetl, Zhvanitz.

When Idl died a month ago, all the Idl stories came out, and in death as in life, he had 'em chuckling

By the time of his death, Idl was a curious archeological relic in a community far removed from its origins. Not a single member of the Ben-Avraham family remains on Kiryat Anavim; none of the crops the pioneers established are still grown there – not even grapes, which gave the kibbutz its name.

IDL had 10 siblings: One was slaughtered in infancy by an intruder while suckling her mother's breast; another died young; of the remaining eight, one lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to the age of 103, and the rest came here during the Third Aliya, following World War I. One brother lived to 94; two sisters, 85 and 95, are still alive.

Idl was said to be the only one of the family with a sense of humor (he was also the only one with blue eyes, if that means anything). His brothers Yossi and Yitzhak were ideologically zealous, and dismissive of the more quixotic Idl. He was... *different*, which, given the prevailing attitudes, was unforgivable.

"Yossi was the 'finance minister,' and he ruled over Kiryat Anavim with an iron fist: He controlled the money, the people – and even the time. In the early days, it was felt that no one should own anything that others didn't have. Now, Yossi had a watch. Others wanted one too, and they confronted Yossi. 'What do you need a watch for?' he would answer; 'If you need to know the time, just ask me.'"

The youngest of the founding *halutzim*, Idl was shunted aside in Kiryat Anavim just as in Zhvanitz. His revenge was to outlive them all, but there was a sad irony: He spent most of his life at the kibbutz a loner, either too young or too old.

In the waning years, however, no longer repressed by his domineering brothers, Idl developed a following of younger people grooving on his folk wisdom, humor, good nature and colorful memories.

"When he was 80, Idl decided to be a strudel baker. In that way, he always had company. People would come, sit with him, have a cup of tea and a strudel."

Idl loved labor, and he had his hand in everything, from cleaning sewers to making jam. From 1921 to 1926 he lived in the north, making gravel or clearing swamps. He spent 73 years on Kiryat Anavim in the Jerusalem Corridor, but he was always a Zhvanitzer.

"A month before he died, I took a picture of him. I had a fancy camera, with a remote control. Idl said, 'Y'know, not even in Zhvanitz was there such a camera like this!'"

IDL predicted the end of the kibbutz movement in the 1970s. Then, he was working in construction. A couple asked for a particular color of tile for the bathroom he was building them, and he said, 'This is the end. When people can choose bathroom tiles, phht, the kibbutz is a goner.'"

"It was sometime in the '40s, he went into town to hear a lecture, and he had to pay a piastre. It was no money, but of course he didn't have it, because he wasn't allowed pocket money. So a stranger loaned him a piastre. And I tell you, to his dying day he felt bad he never repaid the man."

"Oh, he was a *shovar* [mischievous]. He got involved in everything. There was a story he told me, about 60 years ago: He was in Tel Aviv, and he had no money for a bus back home. It so happened that there were floods that day, and people couldn't cross the street. So Idl, he quickly got some boards and laid them across the street, and he stood at one end, and collected a toll."

"Idl hated milking the cows. One day he milked one, made cocoa, sat and waited. Sure enough, two men came by, and they wanted cocoa. 'Milk the cows,' Idl told them, 'and I'll make you a cocoa.' Y'see, Idl was the first kibbutz capitalist."

When he was nearing the end – well, that's what people thought a decade ago, when he hit 90 – microphones and video cameras began to appear before him, collecting his memories.

"How long can a person live?" he asked in 1989. As it turned out, a lot more.

A recording stored at the archive of Kiryat Anavim captures him at his best. Still speaking in a quaint, archaic, Ashkenazic-Russian accent, Idl gave his younger admirers something to treasure. "We were young, and lonely; you know how it is, we were clearing the swamps and we wanted a little company. Some of the girls were more pretty, some were less pretty. Not that I was so good-looking. Anyway, I was walking with a girl, I forget who by now. Suddenly I feel a hand on my shoulder. Some fellow from the Second Aliya. And he pushes me aside, and continues on with the girl."

Poor Idl. He was only from the Third Aliya, lower on the pecking order. Why didn't he stand up for himself? "I was not one of the brave ones," he admitted.

Idl was afraid of death, he recently told a 69-year-old nephew, who tried to reassure him.

"Look," Idl retorted, "When you get to my age, and you know what you're talking about, we'll discuss it again."

From the pages of history, with love

A love affair and an era come alive through the touching, vibrant letters of a young soldier and his girl back home during the Civil War. Now they are being published in a book, **Carl Schoettler** writes



There are no stars tonight
But those of memory.
Yet how much room for memory there is
In the loose girdle of soft rain.
There is even room enough
For the letters of my mother's mother, Elizabeth,
That have been pressed so long
Into a corner of the roof
That they are brown and soft.
And as liable to melt as snow ...

– From "My Grandmother's Love Letters," by Hart Crane

Just after the Battle of Gettysburg, a young Union soldier with a Minie ball in his shoulder sat down as the day waned and wrote a letter to a girl back home about nursing the sick and the wounded and the dying in a Baltimore military hospital.

"My dear friend," Walter G. Dunn began his letter. He wrote in a fine, strong, flowing hand, as steady and regular as the martial beat of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Private Dunn was 18 or 19 and his dear friend, Emma Randolph, back in Plainfield, N.J., was just a little younger, and they were beginning to be in love with each other. Their romance proceeded with the charm and pace and formality of a quadrille in slow time.

The letters they traded are touching and tender, vivacious and gay, chatty and teasing – and sometimes marked by fear and sadness and loss. They were writing during the tragedy of the Civil War. And their love ultimately ended tragically.

Walter's July 1863 letter from Jarvis Hospital is the opening dispatch in a collection of about 100 of the pair's letters recently published by the Maryland Historical Society in a book titled "After Chancellorsville: Letters from the Heart."

"After Chancellorsville" is edited by Judith A. Bailey, a schoolteacher in Fairfax, Va., who inherited the letters, and Robert I. Cottom, a Civil War scholar who is director of the society's press.

WALTER had been wounded at Chancellorsville, Va., two months earlier when his outfit, the 11th New Jersey Volunteers, was overrun by Stonewall Jackson's Confederate troops.

Now, at 10 o'clock on the night of July 10, 1863, Walter writes Emma to say his wound is improving and that he has volunteered to help "the poor sufferers" arriving by the hundreds.

A serious, church-going youth who nonetheless manages to enjoy a busy off-duty social life, Walter gives us a vivid picture of Civil War Baltimore. He writes clear, descriptive letters in well-balanced, compound sentences that Cottom thinks would be quite beyond a contemporary 19-year-old soldier.

"I think the Civil War army was a lot more literate than the current army," he says, noting the troops all but fought over newspapers from home, read the complex editorials and argued about them. "These things were passed around until they almost fell apart. That sort of thing doesn't occur in today's army."

Emma's letters reflected a rich, lively life in New Jersey, revolving around family and friends, holidays, strawberry festivals, ice cream at the "fun parlor," church services and the frequent funerals of the 19th century. She sometimes seems flirty and girlish, and teases Walter about the girls in Baltimore.

Emma was also subject to illness and was often so headachy she could hardly write. But she could often be poetic, sometimes surprisingly profound. She went to the funeral of a Mr. Dunham and was caught in a rain shower at the graveyard. She wrote Walter: "It was awfully grand those black threatening clouds in the east, the sun shining causing the rain drops to sparkle as they fell and reflecting the various hues of the rainbow from glittering hail stones and that long funeral procession (70 wagons).

"The splendid lightning, the heavy thunder. It seemed to portray the country as it is at the present time. Do you not think so? On one side the deepest gloom and sorrow, and on the other light and sunshine."

Emma's letters are what make the collection special, Cottom says. Caches of letters written by Civil War soldiers are not uncommon. But letters matched with replies from home are.

"There are just not a lot of letters from a sweetheart or a mother or a wife to a soldier anywhere in the field," Cottom said. "They tended to get lost, destroyed, burned, used for kindling, or whatever.

Oddly enough, these letters from a soldier in Baltimore to his girl in New Jersey turned up in Southern California, stored in a closet.

JUDY Bailey got the letters from her mother, who'd been given them 50 years ago by the son of Emma's sister, Gracie.

When Gracie married, she went West and became friendly with Bailey's grandmother. Her son, Walter, who never married, even lived for a while with Bailey's grandparents in Monrovia, Calif.

He eventually gave the letters to Ruth Bailey, Judith's mother, in a bag with family relics and Civil War memorabilia.

"She gave them to me when I showed an interest in them," Bailey says. "They were in very good condition."

She transcribed them and thought the Maryland Historical Magazine might publish excerpts. But Ernest Scott, Cottom's predecessor, suggested a book. Bailey did the research about Plainfield and the Randolph-Dunn families; Cottom provided the Baltimore-Civil War background.

These are not passionate love letters. To readers in the late 20th century, Emma and Walter must seem models of restraint and rectitude. They often address each other in the most formal and correct manner. No pictures of them survive.

They seem to have been writing each other for more than a year before Walter uses the word "love" as he closes his letter. He warms up a bit a couple of months later when he writes, "Good night and accept it with a kiss... your affectionate friend Walt." But when we read Emma's next surviving letter, dated six months later, she's already signing it: "Dearest Walter, remember me as yours with everlasting Love – Till Death, Emma."

On a very warm day in August 1864, Emma threatens to write Walter a love letter: "You perhaps cannot imagine how I long to see you (once) more, and look into your 'true eyes' and clasp your hand in mine. Now I expect you to think I'm going to write a 'love letter.'"

She catches herself immediately: "Excuse me, Walt, I cannot help expressing myself."

The couple seem to have become engaged on one of his furloughs. He asks in June 1864: "Do you think your father will favor our nuptial?" But they don't tell their parents they're engaged until just before he comes home in August 1865.

Judy Bailey was thrilled to find that Emma and Walter were indeed married soon after the end of the war.

"But then my hopes were dashed," she says. She began finding obituaries, and learned that their loving correspondence had lasted far longer than their marriage.

Walter caught a cold in January 1866. Complications of his old wound set in and he died in Plainfield on April 16. He was 23. Four months later, on August 20, Emma died from complications after the birth of their daughter. She was 22.

Their little girl, Mary Emma Randolph Dunn, died a month after her mother.

"In this death," an obituary in their church paper said, "the last light of the family has expired.

"Father, mother, and child are now numbered with the dead. They are, we have good reason to hope, an unbroken family in the kingdom of Heaven."

(The Baltimore Sun)

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For tonight we'll merry, merry be

By SHEVI ARNOLD

It's beginning to look a lot like Hanukka. *Hanukka?*

Yes, it is almost Purim, but this year's national, nighttime Adloyada parade promises to be a festival of lights. And those star-studded extravaganzas from Hanukka are coming back to delight the kiddies and scrape the last shekel out of their parent's wallets.

But you need not go bankrupt or even go to Holon to keep the little ones entertained. There are plenty of inexpensive and even free things to do that will put that smile on your children's faces while keeping your bank account happy as well.

If you can make it to Holon tomorrow evening, you can expect to have a wild time. There will be a tiger burning bright at this year's Adloyada (the traditional Israeli Purim parade), in keeping with the animal and environment theme.

Last year's Adloyada was held after sunset in Tel Aviv, with the Jubilee as its theme. It was such a success that it was decided to hold the parade at night this year as well. Aside from the tiger, which promises to be the largest float ever, there will be animals ranging from the Garden of Eden's snake to dinosaurs and a futuristic Noah's ark. The king and queen of the "Adloyada," high school seniors Liron Burdogen and Chani Cohen, will lead the estimated 3,000 marchers that are expected to take part in festivities that include street theater, pyrotechnics, trained dogs, jugglers, dancers, marching bands and more.

Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street is being turned into a pedestrian mall for Carnival Samba with live music, crafts, food, costumes and more. It starts at 10 a.m tomorrow. And while you're in Tel Aviv, you can go to the Dizengoff Center where there's a life-size exhibition of monsters, including the Mask and Darth Vader, and it's all free.

If the idea of a big show sounds good and money is no object, the musicals are back. Local children's television stars Zzvika Hadar, Gil Sassover and Itai Segev play the title roles in the humorous version of the classic Alexander Dumas tale of adventure, *The Three Musketeers*. Written by Ephraim Sidon and directed by Tsedi Zarfati, the play also stars Michal Tsafir and Assaf Ashtar. It will play in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on March 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Also returning to Tel Aviv for the holiday is *Hasamba* - the musical based on Igal Mossinsohn's children's adventure books that take place during Israel's struggle for independence. The plot involves a young boy who forms a secret organization with friends to help his father, arrested by the British police for attempting to assist illegal Jewish immigrants enter the country. Written by Ben Levin and Assaf Levin, who also directs, the play stars television heartthrobs, Aki Avni and Sandy Bar, as well as Shalom Asiyag, Yossi Gerber, Moshe Furster and Yossi Toledo.

Stars, music, dancing and humor will be coming to Haifa in *Aladdin*, with comedian Hanna Laszlo and director Natan Datner. *Princess Cissy*, starring Dorina Dvorin and Oded Menashe with songs by Smadar Shir, will also visit the northern port city.

If Haifa is out of the way, you can catch *Aladdin* in Jerusalem, and *Princess Cissy* also appears in Jaffa.

But if the musicals are beyond your budget, visit the Susan Dellal Center in Tel Aviv for a three-day puppet theater festival called *A Dolly of a Theater* starting Monday, March 1st. There are several plays to choose from, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Frog Prince* and *Itamar Walks on Walls* for younger children, as well as *Zachacha*, a dance concert recommended for children over eight. Children can participate in the festival's creative workshops and meet the puppets from the early morning kid's show *Choco Tel-Ad*.

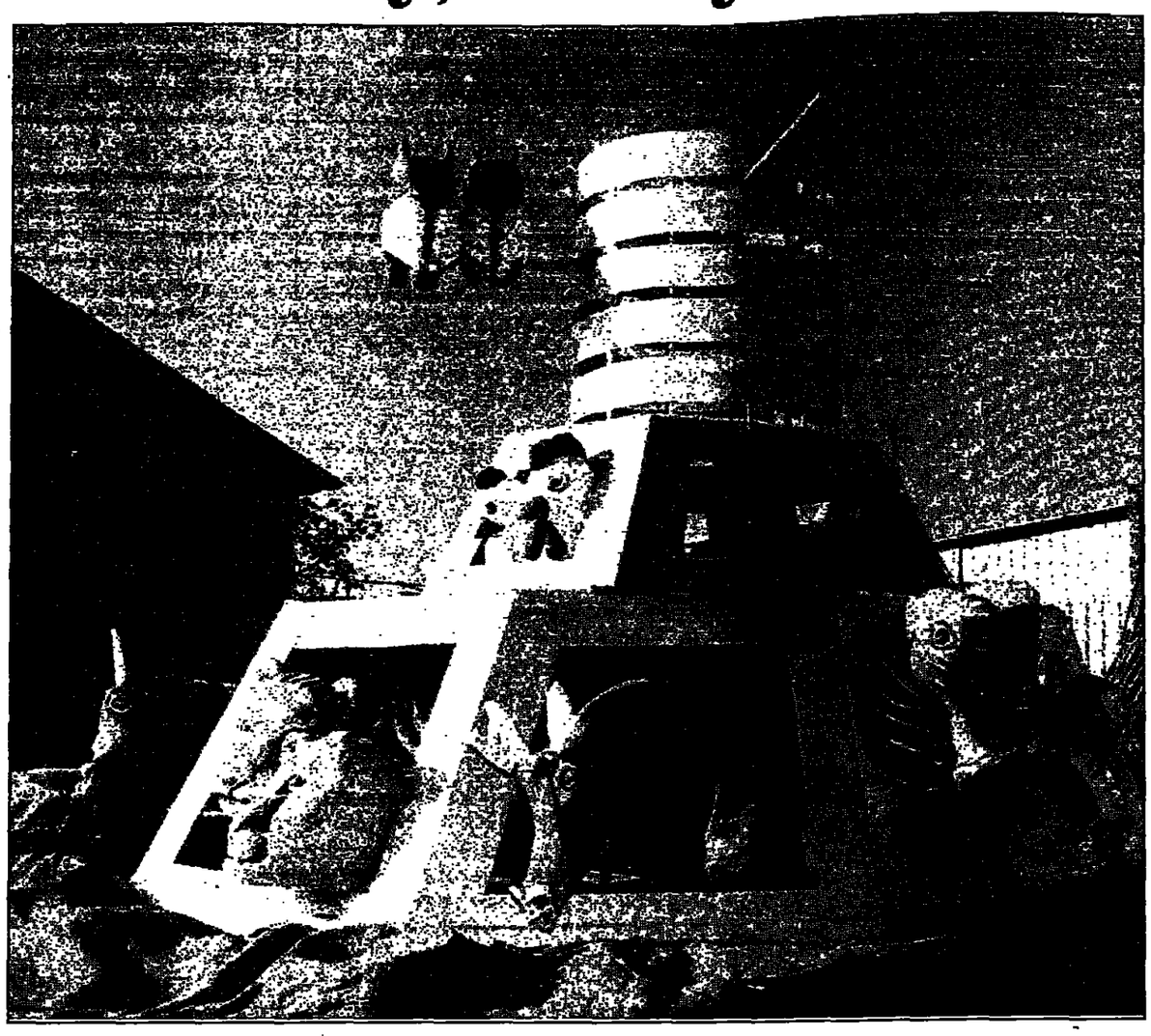
There will also be a free exhibition in the foyer to commemorate 25 years since the creation of the Eric Smith puppet theater.

PARADES and theaters are not the only places that you take the kids. The Israel Museum will present *Who Is in the Costume* by the Jerusalem Dance Theater. This introduction to classical ballet for children combines excerpts from *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Blue Bird* with theatrical sketches that connect today's world to the art of the ballet. There will also be special activities in the Youth Wing including quality animated film shorts, songs and games in English for toddlers and their parents, and a story and make-up workshop with Pini Amitai.

The Haifa Science Museum is running a "Purimada" (Purim science event) with riddles, a scientific costume competition and magical scientific "disguises," and the Eretz Yisrael museum in Ramat Aviv with be showing Eidan Amit's musical *Bubble Gum Seeds*.

If all this seems like too much, and you just want to escape to the other side of the planet until Purim is over, you are in luck. The Gangaroo at Kibbutz Nir-David off the road between Afula and Beit Shean is a little bit of Australia with kangaroos, koalas and other creatures from the land down under. Kids who come tomorrow and Wednesday dressed up as one of these adorable Aussies get in free and get a colorful boomerang to boot. So have a great Purim and no worries, mate.

Contact your local ticket agencies for tickets to the shows. There are special deals for some credit card holders.



The Noah's Ark float in Holon's Adloyada.

Nothing small about 'Little Voice'

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

In the crudely conceived yet winning English film *Little Voice*, Jane Horrocks plays the title character (LV as she is known), a painfully shy young woman who spends most of her time hiding in her room, playing records. She almost never speaks, though when she does open her mouth what comes out is a remarkable – or remarkably weird – sound. LV is a world-class mimic and can switch in a flash from producing the musical sounds of Marilyn Monroe to those of Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey or Marlene Dietrich.

LITTLE VOICE

★★★

Written and directed by Mark Herman. Adapted from the play *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* by Jim Cartright. Hebrew title: *Kol Katan*. 96 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

With Jane Horrocks, Brenda Blethyn, Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor

Her Zelig-like ability to metamorphose into these glamorous chanteuses is, by its nature, a very private thing, and one that's almost grotesquely at odds with her own awkward bearing. Thin, nervous and apparently sexless, LV is only inspired to sing by the memory of her late father, who ran a record store and whose picture she moons over nightly. Her music is both a link to her dead dad and a way of ordering her feelings for him, all of which take the form of old standards: "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," "The Man that Got Away," and so on.

As put forth in simple melodramatic terms by writer/director Mark Herman, whose script is an adaptation of Jim Cartright's play, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, there's something both pathetic and perfectly understandable about LV's extreme introversion and parallel obsession with this music. (Her all-engrossing hobby seems to take its cue from crippled Laura's figurine-fixation in *The Glass Menagerie*.) LV's mother (Brenda Blethyn) is a loud, domineering shrew who might drive anyone to muteness. While LV cowers in her bedroom, her mother struts around in stiletto heels and fishnet stockings, shrieking and vamping and generally making as much noise as is physically possible.

The film's central action revolves around the discovery of Little Voice's strange gift by her mother's new boyfriend, a sleazy talent scout named Ray Say (Michael Caine), who decides to make her a star and hocks everything – lipstick-red convertible included – to prepare for her big launch. At the same time, of course, LV is horrified. She has no interest in appearing onstage and would prefer to be left alone with her phonograph, though with a bit of coaxing and some expert avuncular manipulation, Ray gets her to agree to a single blow-out performance.

Most of this picture's delicate charm relies on Jane Horrocks's uncanny ability to manipulate her voice as she does. (The actress also played the role in the stage production and it is almost impossible to imagine the movie without her.) Ewan McGregor's slightly goofy presence as a bashful pigeon-breeder who has a crush on LV also adds a sweet touch to the film: when the two of them carry on their hesitant flirtation, they seem like a couple of bunny rabbits, circling each other in the grass. On the other end of the comic Richter scale, Blethyn and Caine give brashly energetic, almost campy performances that add a certain comic-book punch to the proceedings. (It's especially good to see Blethyn cutting loose after her last few mousy roles.)

Herman's direction, meanwhile, hardly wins points for narrative subtlety. As he demonstrated in *Brassed Off*, his first coarse but somehow endearing film, he's a skilled orchestrator of an extremely British form of big-hearted, "little people" kitsch. There are numerous crass moves in *Little Voice* – cheap symbolism of the LV-equals-a-caged-bird variety, as well as pat psychological explanations for everyone's behavior.

Herman also stoops too often to a fairly vulgar sort of let's-laugh-at-the-fat-lady humor, and in the last act the picture suffers a near total meltdown of logic, technique, and taste.

But somehow, despite its questionable dramatic methods, *Little Voice* manages to pull us into its web. Not only does the film pose interesting questions about the nature of performance and anxiety, originality and imitation, it also provides a one-of-a-kind platform for Jane Horrocks's talent. To watch her slip in and out of her different "parts" is both riveting and at times quite unsettling. Her routine may be more party trick than art. As tricks go, though, it's fascinating, a sort of ventriloquism of the soul.



Golden Globe winner Michael Caine plays a sleazy talent scout to Brenda Blethyn's (center) noisy mother in 'Little Voice.' (Laurie Sparham)

Chinese ready to deal

By ROBERT W. WELKOS

A delegation of film executives from mainland China recently went to Los Angeles in hopes of forging coproduction deals with its American counterparts, the latest signal that relations between China and Hollywood may be on the mend.

Its arrival comes on the heels of a decision by Beijing to allow a Mandarin-dubbed version of Disney's animated feature film *Mulan* to play in major cities throughout China.

Now, the China Film Co-Production Corp., a one-time government agency that oversaw all coproductions in China until the entertainment industry was made more competitive in recent years, wants to open further dialogue with US studios and independent filmmakers.

The CFCC not only wants American studios to consider filming inside the People's Republic of China, but it also seeks to cofinance US films.

"The Chinese are as interested in generating revenue and making money as the US studios, if not more," said Thomas Leong, whose Hong Kong-based agency represents CFCC in North America.

He estimates there are more than a dozen films in various stages of development in Hollywood that the Chinese feel they could coproduce, if given the opportunity.

One project that has intrigued the Chinese is author Iris Chang's nonfiction book *The Rape of Nanking*, which tells the horrific story of the Japanese military occupation of Nanking, China, during World War II. It's one of several projects now in development at Hollywood studios set in China during the war.

"I think I might well look to them [CFCC] for half the budget and not rely on an American studio for all the financing," said Brenda Feigen, a Los Angeles-based literary agent who is developing the book into a film.

HANGING over any potential movie deals between China and Hollywood are the volatile issues of censorship and human rights abuses in China.

In 1997, the Chinese government halted all distribution of movies released by the Walt Disney Co., Sony Pictures Entertainment and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer after the three studios released films that harshly depicted the Communist regime in Beijing.

The Chinese were upset with Sony's *Seven Years in Tibet* and Disney's *Kundun* for portraying China's occupation of Tibet and its treatment of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, as brutal. MGM was also criticized because its Richard Gere political thriller, *Red Corner*, cast a harsh light on China's judicial system.

But last fall, Disney Chairman Michael Eisner undertook a damage control mission by traveling to Beijing and meeting with Chinese leaders, including propaganda chief Ding Guangen. Disney also bought the US distribution rights to two Chinese films.

"Michael Eisner traveling to China was an inspired move of diplomacy; Disney is already feeling [the benefits] with *Mulan*," Leong said.

It may come as a surprise, but China has had relationships with Hollywood filmmakers dating back years. The Chinese film industry is now about a century old, and the facilities in China are equipped to handle all but the most advanced digitally enhanced films.

Mike Medavoy, a veteran producer who was born in Shanghai and currently heads Phoenix Pictures (*The Thin Red Line*), said Hollywood will do business with the Chinese if and when it makes economic sense.

"It's all about money," Medavoy said. "Nobody is going to do this unless they feel they can get something in return."

MEDAVOY is in talks with Shanghai Studios, one of 16 major studios in mainland China, to make a film there called *Shanghai*, set against the backdrop of World War II.

Universal Studios is making its first foray into that arena in May, when shooting begins an hour outside Beijing on the film *Pavilion of Women*. Based on a Pearl S. Buck novel, the film is a classic East-meets-West story told around the Japanese invasion of China in the 1930s and involves a love story between a Western missionary and a cloistered Chinese woman.

Nadia Bronson, president of international marketing at Universal, said the project has encountered no significant obstacles in the year-and-a-half it has been in development, but she added that American filmmakers "have to have a lot of patience" when working in China.

"They are wonderful and creative and want to get things done, but we are two worlds apart," Bronson said. "Just having patience on both sides is the key."

Ted Perkins, who as Universal's vice president of acquisitions went to China to help arrange the movie, added: "I think they are inclined to distrust Hollywood from the start, but that goes for just about everybody these days."

Universal did show the script to the Chinese in advance, they noted, but there were no problems.

Last September, Sony Pictures Entertainment announced that it was forming Columbia Pictures Asia, a production division to be based in Hong Kong whose mission will be to produce and acquire local films for distribution throughout the world, but with emphasis on Asian audiences.

There are also a number of China-themed films in development at various Hollywood studios. At Paramount Pictures, for example, producer Alan Ladd Jr. is developing a film called *The Flower Net*, based on a book by Lisa See. (Los Angeles Times)

Fourth-rate, but costly, entertainment

COMMENT

Passover and Succot excepted, local holidays spell money, and hopefully lots of it, for the producers of children's musicals.

This Purim we're being treated to a replay of some of the major musicals which premiered at Hanukka. But before you embark on an expensive day at the musical, be aware of what you are about to take your children to.

Many of the shows fall into the Israeli-invented category of the third- and fourth-rate children/family musical that stars a celebrity from children's television. The story is of no interest to the children - but the stage presence of Michal Yanai, Yael Bar Zohar, Gil Sassover, Dana Dvorin and the like are considered good enough reason to charge parents a considerable amount of shekels.

Tickets to these musicals are not cheap. Regular tickets to shows like *Aladdin*, *Hasamba*, *The Three Musketeers* or *Dr. Doolittle* cost more than NIS 100, putting parents back a considerable sum. But, and this is a big but, only a few actually pay the full price. Workers unions and big organizations often purchase the tickets and offer them to their employees for a small, almost nominal fee. And this year credit card companies offered considerable reductions on tickets for credit card points.

But the ticket is actually only a minor problem. There are also the souvenirs (discs, videos, hats, shirts and all kind of other memorabilia) which are sold in the theater. And then there are the street vendors who wait patiently outside the theaters with huge balloons and other toys, preying on the largely young audience.

And we should not forget to mention the food. When was the last time you were charged NIS 10 for ice cream or NIS 15 for the smallest portion of popcorn?

All this would be well and good if the quality of the shows was something we could be proud of. But in order to recoup their investment, the producers stage the show three to five times a day. As a result, the singers and actors (who often can neither act nor sing and whose stage presence is an embarrassment to say the least), maintain their stamina by lip synching. Wouldn't it be easier just to send each family a video?

Worst of all, the shows, almost without any exception, suffer from infantile and embarrassing scripts, poor sets and music that is redundant and far from original. The younger generation gets the wrong impression about what good theater is all about.

The parents might might be happy that the kids were pried from TV for a while, but the musicals are little more than live TV, expensive and in bad taste to boot. None of this will change, of course until parents stop paying for fourth-rate entertainment. Only then may they start getting something worth taking the kids to.

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Unchain their hearts

The problem of *agunot* – Jewish women denied divorces from husbands who are missing or refuse to grant a *get* – is not a new one. When a problem has been around for over 2,000 years, one might think that street demonstrations would not be necessary to bring attention to it. Today, however, on the Fast of Esther, the International Coalition for Agunot plan to hold a protest in Jerusalem in front of the Chief Rabbinate, and for good reason.

Ask the Rabbinate to relieve agunot – literally "chained women" – from their state of bondage and suffering and the proud response will be: in the past five years, we have resolved all but 15 of the 450 outstanding cases. Unfortunately, they are referring only to the relatively small group of cases in which the husband is missing or unreachable in another country. In the much more common case – in which the husband simply refuses to sign a religious bill of divorce or get – the woman is technically not an aguna, but a *mesurevet get*, one denied a divorce.

A woman who is refused a get is in an often debilitating state of limbo – neither married nor divorced, unable to remarry or have children, and subject to financial blackmail. Though both the man and woman are required to agree to a Jewish divorce, the man has the option of remarrying without being considered an adulterer and without jeopardizing the status of his future children. In addition, a man can be freed from the need for his wife's agreement for a divorce by obtaining the signatures of 100 rabbis.

Since for a woman the consequences of being refused a divorce are greater and the possible alternative remedies – outside of a rabbinic court – are non-existent, a spiteful or greedy husband can have tremendous leverage over his wife in a divorce situation. In Israel, where civil marriage and divorce are non-existent, this disparity can affect religious and secular Jews alike.

From time to time, some of the worst cases of agunot receive public attention, such as those whose husbands go to jail for years rather than grant a get, or women whose husbands have long police records for beating them and yet still cannot get a divorce. Such cases do exist, and it is shameful that they do, given that the rabbinic courts have the power to release these women.

At the same time, however, the less extreme and more common aspects of the aguna problem are largely ignored, and arguably present as great a burden and challenge to society. In 1997, the police reported opening investigations into over 16,000 domestic violence cases in Israel. Domestic violence tends to be grossly underreported, and the relationship between the level of domestic abuse, filings for divorce, and refusal to grant divorce is unknown. Judging from this figure, the number of agunot could well run in the thousands, as estimated by women's groups.

In this context, the number of cases in which the rabbinical courts report invoking sanctions against husbands to press them to grant a get – about 50 per year – is appallingly low. According to groups such as Mevo Satum (Dead End), which assist agunot and mesuravot get with the rabbinic courts, these courts are only beginning to use the sanctions and halachic solutions at their disposal to address the problem. A 1996 law gave the courts the power to revoke driver's licenses, passports, credit cards, and ultimately, impose jail sentences on recalcitrant husbands.

Sanctions, though found to be effective in many cases, are not the only recourse available to the courts. A two-year study, whose results were presented to the Rabbinate by women's groups five years ago, found five tools within Jewish law for preventing or addressing the agunot challenge: pre-nuptial agreement, compulsory get, obligatory get, annulment, and conditional get. Pre-nuptial agreements which impose stiff financial-support requirements on husbands who refuse to give a get have the potential to mostly solve the problem in the future, and should be required in all weddings performed in Israel. Women's groups have been begging the Rabbinate to draft and require such an agreement for years, and both chief rabbis have agreed to do so in principle, but an agreed upon text has not yet been produced.

Though some men will refuse a get out of spite, most are seeking financial leverage in a divorce settlement. By telling many couples to "work it out" themselves, even when they know divorce is unavoidable, the rabbinic courts often indirectly force women to give in to their husband's financial blackmail. Even if there is no element of physical abuse leading to the end of a marriage, there is no excuse for allowing one side of a divorce to extort tremendous sums of money from the other. The immediate, widespread use of pre-nuptial agreements could prevent much of this in the future.

For now, there is no excuse for the excessive reluctance of the rabbinic courts to use the legal sanctions and halachic solutions at their disposal – not just to free women from failed marriages, but to ensure that they need not pay an exorbitant price for their freedom.

'Galut' justice

YOSEF GOELL

The Supreme Court's reversal last week of a Jerusalem District Court decision to extradite Samuel Sheinbein, the 18-year-old who is wanted in the US for a particularly grisly murder, is a classic case of the old rabbinical saw that, "according to Halacha the putrid chicken is undoubtedly kosher, but it still stinks to high heaven."

The formal question on which the Supreme Court was asked to rule was whether Sheinbein qualified as an Israeli citizen, whose extradition is forbidden by law. Sheinbein was born in the US to a father who left Israel as a child, before the adoption of the Citizenship Law in 1952. But the granting and retention of formal Israeli citizenship is so liberal, that even though the young Sheinbein never had the slightest affinity to Israel, he is deemed to be an Israeli citizen.

District Court Judge Moshe Ravid, who found it difficult to swallow that legal fiction, ruled that Sheinbein could nonetheless be extradited because he had never had any ties to this country.

But a 3-2 Supreme Court majority reversed that decision, choosing to interpret the law in its most formalistic fashion. The result is that Sheinbein will stand trial here for the murder he is charged with committing in Maryland.

It may be politically incorrect, but there might be room to surmise that in its decision, the court was indeed intimidated by the recent haredi and national-religious onslaught on its rulings and its very integrity.

The problem, however, is not so much with the court as with the law itself. The fact is that many legislators, justice ministers and attorneys-general have since realized its defects and had begun the process of watering it down. A first reading of an amendment with such an intention had already passed in the Knesset, but apparently was not a priority for the current government.

So what's so wrong with a Jewish state springing to the defense of a fellow Jew against his antisemitic persecutors? Looking at such cases in a perverted way is what is fundamentally wrong.

The law in question, adopted in 1978 at the behest of prime minister Menachem Begin, was an extreme expression of *galut*-minded Jewish paranoia. This attitude posits that all of the world's six billion *goyim* wake up every morning and do a half-hour of intense Jew-hating exercises before they brush their teeth and go on with their daily lives. All Jews, in this view, are constantly threatened by this universally ingrained antisemitism and

It's time we stopped extending our protection to despicable criminals just because they happen to be Jews

deserve our protection.

It would be perverse after the Holocaust to deny the persistence of nasty streaks of antisemitism in parts of the Christian world and more recently in the Moslem one, too. But it would be equally perverse to deny that such antisemitism has declined greatly in the democratic West and especially in the US, where there is no question that Jews receive fair treatment in the courts.

It may be difficult for some of us to overcome the centuries-old Jewish conviction that "the entire world is against us," which was behind that legislation forbidding the extradition of Israeli citizens to stand trial before the *goyim*. But it is time we grew up and started seeing the real balance with which the world views Israel and the Jewish people at the end of the 20th century.

It is also self-delusory to deny the existence in many countries of "Jewish garbage" – murderers, mafia thugs, drug traffickers, pimps and other criminals. We have no need for the likes of them in Israel, or of extending our protection to them against the hand of the law in democratic countries with whom we have extradition agreements.

It's time we abandoned the *galut* mentality of defending despicable criminals just because they happen to be Jews.

There are two additional points to make regarding the American connection.

Israel's obtusely legalistic behavior in failing to extradite Sheinbein will undoubtedly serve as a pretext for "legalists" in the US to strengthen their adamant opposition to Israel's pleas to pardon jailed spy Jonathan Pollard. It may well tilt the very fine balance against Pollard's release.

We should also be aware that just as Sheinbein is identified as part of the Jewish community in the US, his victim was a member of the Hispanic community. The Hispanics in the US have no ingrained history of antisemitism, but the failure to extradite Sheinbein may well set off a wave of antisemitism among that large and growing ethnic minority which may prove difficult if not impossible to reverse.

Last week's decision should be appealed to a wider panel of the Supreme Court; in the interim, there should be a speedy amending of the law, to permit such extraditions.

Dry Bones



Rid Israel of racism

BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

Is racism endemic in modern multiethnic societies? Can it be eliminated from our institutions, our speech, our souls?

A report last week by a distinguished judge, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, found that "pernicious and persistent institutional racism" was prevalent in the Metropolitan Police in London.

Sir William had been asked to inquire into police handling of a murder case in which the killers of a young black man, Steven Lawrence, had got off scot-free. The report produced an unprecedented outpouring of anguished comment in Britain about police attitudes to ethnic minorities and, more generally, about racism in society as a whole.

Sir William offered this definition of institutional racism: "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture, or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

Racial attitudes have changed dramatically in Britain in my lifetime. Until the late 1940s, few non-whites lived in the country. Significant immigration from the West Indies began in 1948 and successive acts of parliament under both Conservative and Labor governments after 1962 stemmed but did not halt the inflow from the Caribbean, Africa and South Asia. Today there are at least three million Britons "of new Commonwealth origin" (as a common circumlocution has it).

In the 1950s and 1960s, latter-day imperial attitudes led most Englishmen to regard immigrants with a mixture of wariness and disdain. Blacks suffered discrimination in employment and housing, were patronized and exploited, excluded from working men's clubs and warned not to go near white women.

No dispassionate observer can deny that Israeli society is guilty of it

Their children were bullied, alienated and condemned to dead-end existences.

A critical point came in 1968 when the Conservative former minister Enoch Powell delivered a series of speeches in which he called for repatriation of immigrants and illustrated his argument with tales of "piccaninnies" who (he said) pushed excrement through the letterboxes of little old ladies.

Powell won the plaudits of self-styled patriots throughout the land and his poll ratings soared. But the liberal establishment of all parties rallied against Powell's populism. He never held office again.

BY the 1990s, as Powell had predicted, a great change had come over English urban society. Cities such as Bradford, where hardly a black face was to be seen in the 1950s, now had non-white majorities.

Recently I returned for the first time for many years to Leicester, where I had lived as a teenager in the 1960s. I recall that there was then one "colored" pupil out of the thousand or so in my grammar school. Today the same school is an ethnic potpourri. Yet the "rivers of blood" that Powell darkly prophesied have not flowed. I was struck in Leicester by the easy tenor of race relations at several levels.

By any measurable standard, England in 1999 is a less racist country than it was 30 years ago: discrimination in employment or housing is less common and the legal and other recourses available to those who suffer it are deeply entrenched.

For all the horror of the Lawrence case, the public reaction has been heartening. There is universal outrage that the alleged killers still walk free – and have been videotaped uttering crude racist obscenities.

Sir William's solution is to make racist talk, whether in public or private, an offense under the law. Alf Garnett would have to watch his language even in his own front parlor, and the broadcasting organizations would presumably be proscribed from scheduling reruns of his thoughts. The proposal has been generally ridiculed.

A serious question remains: Is racial harmony possible in contemporary "rainbow" societies?

This question confronts Israel with special urgency. The Jewish state was, after all, founded on the premise that harmonious coexistence between Jews and Gentiles was impossible in a world where Jews were everywhere a minority.

Hence the creation of a Jewish-majority state. Yet Israel in the new millennium can look forward to an increasingly multicultural, multireligious and multiracial future. It is time not merely to accept but to embrace this reality.

The Jewish state, like the British, has to reinvent itself as a home for all its citizens. No dispassionate observer can deny that Israeli society, no less than British, is riddled with "institutional racism."

Differential treatment of Arab and Jewish killers in the occupied territories is but one example. Differential government spending on Arab and Jewish municipalities is another – surely the very concept of a municipality that is "Arab" or "Jewish" is by any reasonable definition racist! So is the notion, brazenly trumpeted, that fundamental national issues should be the decision-making preserve of a so-called "Jewish majority."

In Britain there is at long last a broad consensus, stretching from Right to Left, that the evil of racism must be eradicated root and branch. Can we say the same of Israel?

Goldilocks in Rambouillet

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Madeleine Albright was hardly subtle in her invitation to the peace conference at Rambouillet. Addressing mainly the Serbs, who control the province of Kosovo and deny autonomy to its 90 percent Albanian population, she basically said "Make peace or die."

Air strikes were advertised. Jets were ostentatiously dispatched to forward bases. Everything was readied for the February 20 deadline. As usual with Albright, the deadline passed. As did another on the 23rd.

At which point, having failed, she declared victory. (We have "decisively broken a stalemate.") She then announced another such invitation to failure at Rambouillet on March 15.

Up the hill, then down again: the favorite trajectory of the Clinton administration. Why does an administration so reluctant to use force keep threatening it again and again, only to be exposed as all bluff and bluster?

In foreign policy, reluctance is not an ignoble instinct. Indeed, in Kosovo it is the beginning of wisdom. But with reluctance goes reticence, not bombast.

The good news is that this most recent loss of credibility means little, given that this administration has so little to begin with.

The bad news is that the administration may once again be boxing itself into a corner from which the only way out is the ill-advised use of force. This lame-duck president seems intent on injecting 4,000 American troops to – let's use the correct term here – occupy the Serbian province of Kosovo.

The administration calls it peacekeeping. Peacekeeping means upholding a peace already arrived at by exhausted combatants. That describes the situation currently in Bosnia (where NATO arrived after Serbs had been driven out of the eastern provinces of Croatia and dealt such a defeat that they were willing to accept the current truce). In Kosovo, peacekeeping would occur in the unlikely event that the Serbs and Kosovar Albanians sign a peace accord.

But peacekeeping is hand-holding, border guarding, demining, arresting war criminals. In a word, police work. It is a worthy job.

But it is not a job for the US. It is a job for Sweden.

America's military has a different job: imposing itself – deploying its massive sophisticated forces to strike and fight – where the stakes are high and the cause is clear. Liberating an invaded Kuwait was precisely such an instance, as is protecting South Korea and Taiwan.

In Bosnia, the most powerful and sophisticated army in the world is sitting in the rain and the mud at the cost of more than $20 billion and counting. What a colossal waste – and drain. As the protector of last resort, the US needs to husband its resources for great exertions, not dissipate them.

AND what if the Serbs and Kosovar Albanians prove not to be docile upholders of whatever paper they might sign under duress at Rambouillet? Then we'll not be there for peacekeeping – which for America is a waste – but for peacemaking, which for America is a needless danger. Are we ready for a ground war with Serbia?

After all, this would not be NATO going to the defense of a country invaded. This would be NATO actually invading a sovereign country, Yugoslavia.

Autonomy for the Kosovars is dandy. But having it imposed by military force from the outside is hardly consonant with the kind of international law this administration claims so strenuously to uphold.

The administration insists that Kosovars must have "substantial autonomy." Not independence, as demanded by the Kosovars. Not rule by Belgrade, as demanded by the Serbs. But precisely the 82-page NATO-concocted scheme for an autonomy that is not too hot and not too cold.

The Kosovar Albanians must have this Goldilocks autonomy, says the administration. At this point its attempt to inflate the stakes becomes almost comical. Advancing a domino theory more fanciful than any seen since Vietnam, it warns that, otherwise, first Macedonia will be destabilized and face possible war, then Albania, then Greece, then Turkey, then the world.

As Henry Kissinger points out, this domino theory is more likely to occur *with* NATO intervention. It would sever Kosovo from Serbian control and lead inevitably to an irredentist Kosovar state, unstable and unviable and forced to either join or take over pieces of neighboring countries. *That* is a prescription for destabilization and conflagration.

And anyway, why is this an American problem? If the Europeans believe that a NATO invasion of Yugoslavia will save the day, let them do it. They have manpower and the arms to hold, by God, tiny Kosovo. If they don't have the will, it is not America's job to provide it.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ENEMIES OF FREE SPEECH

Sir, – In your long and carefully crafted editorial of February 25 concerning the Arutz 7 Knesset law you say: "The issue here is not, as proponents of the measure argued, freedom of speech."

That is exactly the issue. The rest of the verbiage is nothing less than hypocrisy. The media oligarchy, championed by Nachman Shai, isn't really concerned about license fees or waveband allocation. Let's not mince words: They cannot tolerate an unabashedly right-wing, openly nationalistic, proudly Jewish radio station – in any form, legal, illegal, on land or sea.

Shulamit Aloni once sent the police to seize Arutz 7's transmitters when the ship was in Ashdod Port. That was a bit crude, so now the more clever "politically correct" establishment will try using the High Court of Justice to "shut mouths." If that doesn't work, maybe Ran Cohen or Eitan Cabel will try jamming. Anything that works....

Now to legislation: In no way would the Left allow any law to permit Arutz 7 to broadcast freely. They were sharpening their knives with commissions, tender committees, regulations, supervision, criteria, review processes, etc., all intended to make sure that Arutz 7 would never operate freely. So let's stop pretending that the issue is "the rule of law" or other fancy fig leaves.

The law passed last Tuesday in the Knesset reflects the majority of the public who desired the legalization of Arutz 7, as shown in Gesher Foundation's poll that you also published last week.

And let's not overlook fairness and equality: MK Yossi Sarid once submitted a law to the Knesset to bring ashore Abie Nathan's Voice of Peace "pirate radio station." He wasn't even embarrassed when reminded of this on the radio.

What hurts the most is that *The Jerusalem Post* willingly joins hands with the most heinous enemies of free speech who have tried for years, by any and all means, legal or illegal, to shut down the sole electronic medium of expression beloved by over 500,000 Israelis.

JIM BENNETT
Haifa.

ADOLESCENT BREAKOUT

Sir, – First I would like to preface my words by saying that I am a registered psychologist (with the Ministry of Health) who has worked extensively with adolescent youths and their parents. In Tuesday's paper you wrote about a 13-year old boy who was "helped" by Hillel.

I happen to know the family of a 13-year old boy who was "helped" by Hillel. The mother has been teaching in the state-religious system for over 15 years and the father is an educator as well. Their home is filled with love and support and both parents care deeply about their children.

Around the time that the boy was in contact with Hillel there was a communication breakdown between the child and his parents, mostly due to his emerging adolescence.

By the time the parents were able to comprehend what was happening, the boy had contacted Hillel and members of the Hillel organization had already introduced him to a secular foster family....This boy needed someone who could help him first and foremost reconnect to his parents. He did not need an organization which helped him out the front door. He was only 13 years old. The members of Hillel who "helped" this boy never once contacted the parents. They never asked their permission if it was all right to introduce him to a potential foster family. They interfered with a problem that required skilled and knowledgeable intervention.

Perhaps the boy would have continued to insist that he could not live in a religious home. Perhaps eventually the parents would have agreed. Perhaps they could have found a compromise. Unfortunately for the parents and more so for the boy himself, we will never know.

Helping an adult live in a secular world is one thing. Helping a 13-year old leave home is, in my opinion, criminal.

M. ROTTMAN
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 1, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that a display of dazzling fireworks and a colorful pageant marked the festive opening of Purim celebrations in Tel Aviv. People danced in the streets throughout the day and the traffic was completely disorganized.

50 years ago: On March 1, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported that Israel warmly welcomed the first 150 Israeli POWs who came home after nine months in a Jordanian desert prison camp. In Shuneh King Abdullah was reported to have offered Israel permanent peace in exchange for an access to the Mediterranean.

25 years ago: On March 1, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat told Syrian President Hafez Assad that he had approved US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's formula for military disengagement between Syria and Israel.

Alexander Zvielli

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Over Time

The End Was a Mirage. The Scandal Lives On.

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

WASHINGTON

MERCIFULLY, the impeachment vote was at hand, acquittal was already a certainty, and that new thing with feathers, "closure," seemed a cheery possibility for the nation. Yet in the final hours of the Senate's trial of President Clinton, Republicans were still proposing more subjects for investigation. Rumors of Presidential tape recordings were gravely cited along with an 11th-hour affidavit from a reporter allowed to intrude Pirandello-like into the story. "We don't want any grassy-knoll theories or dangling questions left in case someone like Oliver Stone ever tries to make a movie about this," a ranking Republican staffer explained straight-faced in announcing fresh kindling for the 13-month-long conflagration.

Whether it be set in Oliver Stone's Amerika or the Marx Brothers' Freedonia, the very idea of remilking the mass entertainment aspect of the debilitating Clinton-Lewinsky-Starr saga seemed the year's ultimate obscenity. For, as the Senate prepared to vote, a stake-in-the-heart ending of the thing was at hand by all the Constitution's sacred writ and the public's smoldering indifference.

But no. Less than two weeks after his acquittal, President Clinton once more has had to gingerly decline elaboration on his latest flat denial of a Jane Doe story of sexual allegation flaring up from the oily residue of his impeachment struggle. What's more, scandal escapists should be warned that juicy bits from Monica Lewinsky's oath-free television interview with Barbara Walters — a prelude to The Book — have already been strategically leaked to stoke viewership for this week's next episode of a story most people claim to be sick of. And, lest justice not be endlessly served, ground rules are being negotiated for a new investigation, this time of the fairness of the investigation of the President's investigator, Kenneth W. Starr. And, of course, Mr. Starr will have an extra year's jurisdiction to investigate Mr. Clinton, private citizen, once he leaves office.

"It never ends," exults Matt Drudge, the Internet scandalmonger who served up the Lewinsky story and led America to its groaning board feast upon sex and mendacity. "I did hope the Senate would keep Clinton: I needed the hits."



Pat Crowley

And here we all are looking for something fresh and wholesome. President Clinton's Arbor Day speech, perhaps, or a regained perch on that bridge to the 21st century.

Rather, Webster Hubbell's next fraud trial by Mr. Starr's Whitewater — remember Whitewater? — prosecutors begins in late spring. And Hillary Rodham Clinton may be called as a witness, just when she's somehow tempted by the idea of electoral office in her own right as her husband's career slowly closes out. Closure? No, the story goes forward, by limp and squiggle. When all else fails, there's always nostalgia on CNBC and Fox-TV with nether-night reruns of the flinching Betty Currie footage, the beret rope-line tableau and, evermore, the wagging finger.

"What would it take to make it end?" Mark Russell, the capital's resident political humorist, asks of the scandal story. "Saddam Hussein at Camp David. Or *John* Doe No. 5. Fifteen percent unemployment by the Easter recess? Jane Doe Nos. 5 through 26 on '20-20.' " Mr. Russell pauses, as if at wit's end about it all. "How about at the Academy Awards Elia Kazan names Charlton Heston as a Communist?"

BUT it becomes harder to laugh at the story that wraps around itself, at "this daily mud-slide into the nation's living rooms," as David E. Bonior, the House Democratic whip, described it last fall. He failed to defeat impeachment, but he left a ringing question: "Do we really want two more years of Monica Lewinsky? Two more years of Linda Tripp?" That now seems an existential question. (The political comedian Al Franken comments, "I think the next phase of the story will be articles like yours.")

For sheer durability, the story is beginning to resemble a toxic waste dump of fetid ingredients and methane energies. The news media cannot afford not to see the story through. The President's enemies, naturally, stand ready to continue feeding the pile. And then there are the sorry deposits offered by President Clinton himself, whose search for historic legacy seems increasingly overwhelmed by vapors from the past.

Gamboling in the unsensational agenda of yore, House Democratic leader Richard A. Gephardt was fairly trilling his way last week through a masterful riff on the looming Social Security issue when he was suddenly

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Water Politics
Finally, an article about Kurds you'll understand.
By Stephen Kinzer **10**



That Was Then
Once they passed a really big law.
By David E. Rosenbaum **11**



Protecting the Dead
The theft of cemetery artifacts is on the rise.
By Patricia Leigh Brown **12**

In Denial

Managed Care's Other Problem: It's Not What You Think

By MICHAEL M. WEINSTEIN

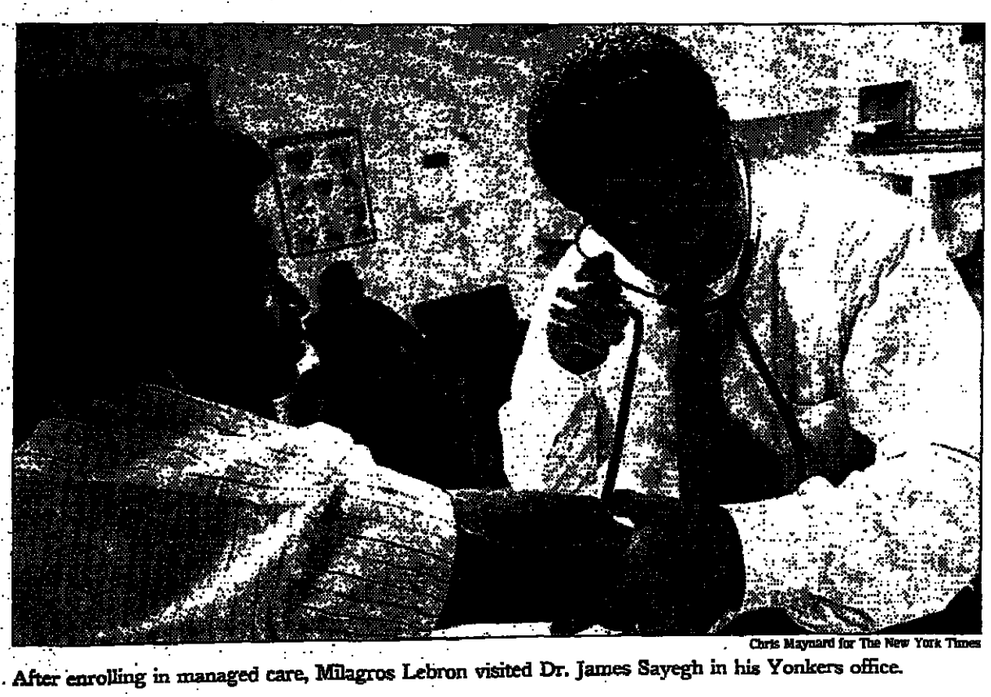
A woman suffering from breast cancer asks for a bone marrow transplant. Her health plan says no. A paraplegic needs a special wheelchair to achieve adequate mobility. The plan says no. Rarely a week goes by without a health maintenance organization getting hammered in the press or in court for denying payment for the care of a gravely ill patient. Clearly, the anecdotal evidence suggests, the scandal of managed care is rampant denial of treatment.

But guess again. The media, courts and consumer advocates are overlooking a problem that is precisely the opposite of the one everybody's complaining about. That problem is too many medical treatments rather than too few.

For a variety of reasons — fears of consumer backlash, legislative intervention or large jury awards — managed care plans appear to be denying little care, notwithstanding all the well-publicized horror stories and growing complaints as H.M.O.'s become commonplace in American society.

As a result, the cost savings that H.M.O.'s have already achieved are in jeopardy. Managed care also is not meeting its stated goal of improving the quality of treatment by second-guessing physicians who fail to follow the best medical practices.

Take a look at figures on care denial that New York and other states are just beginning to collect. While incomplete and problematic, they suggest that there have been few denials over the objections of enrollees or their doctors, raising the question of whether the persistent reports of callous behavior by H.M.O.'s provide a distorted picture.



Chris Maynard for The New York Times

After enrolling in managed care, Milagros Lebron visited Dr. James Sayegh in his Yonkers office.

For example, New York for the first time in 1997 required health plans to report each time patients or their physicians appealed a plan's denial of reimbursement for a physician-approved treatment. The plans reported a small number of appeals.

The Oxford Health Plans, covering more than a million New Yorkers in managed care, reported fewer than 1.5 appeals for every 1,000 enrollees. The six largest managed care plans in the state averaged about 2.5 appeals per 1,000 patients.

Mainly, the H.M.O.'s denied coverage for specialists not part of the plan's network of physicians; treatments deemed unnecessary for a patient's recovery, and procedures that the plan deemed experimental — lacking scientific evidence of safety or effectiveness.

A similar picture emerges from reports in other states. New Jersey and Connecticut, for example, keep track of appeals that are not resolved by the internal procedures of managed-care plans — a smaller category than that reported for New York. For 1998, New Jersey reported 69 such appeals from about 2.5 million enrollees in managed care. Connecticut reported 39 appeals from about a million enrollees. Appeals are rare even in managed care plans serving Medicare, despite the fact that appeals are automatic once the enrollee has exhausted the plan's internal review. Managed care patients in general win between a quarter to a third of

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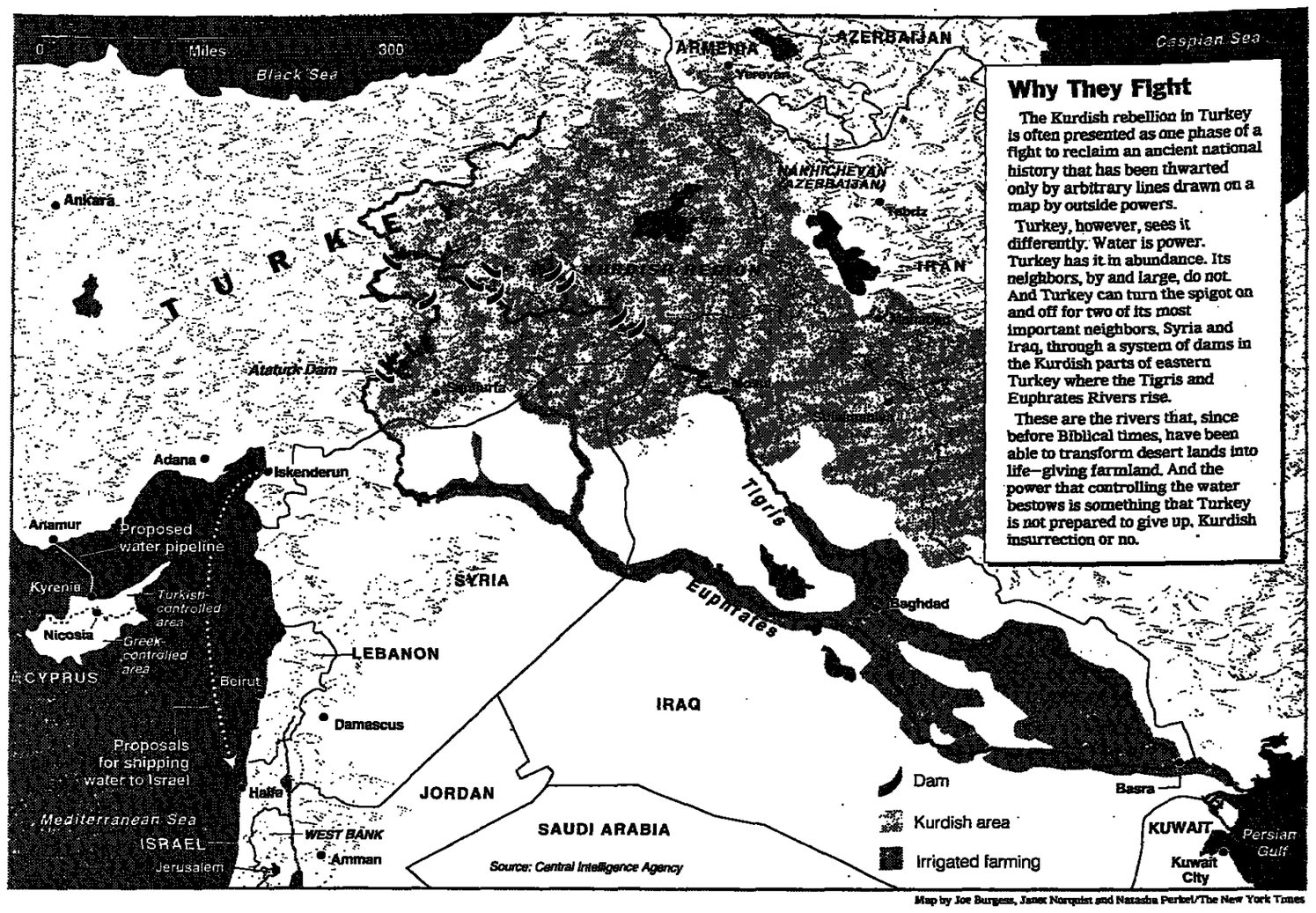
The World

Where Kurds Seek a Land, Turks Want the Water



Photographs by Archive Photos

Turkish troops (above) at a dam controlling the flow of water to Iraq, where a bride is baptized (below).



Why They Fight

The Kurdish rebellion in Turkey is often presented as one phase of a fight to reclaim an ancient national history that has been thwarted only by arbitrary lines drawn on a map by outside powers.

Turkey, however, sees it differently. Water is power. Turkey has it in abundance. Its neighbors, by and large, do not. And Turkey can turn the spigot on and off for two of its most important neighbors, Syria and Iraq, through a system of dams in the Kurdish parts of eastern Turkey where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers rise.

These are the rivers that, since before Biblical times, have been able to transform desert lands into life-giving farmland. And the power that controlling the water bestows is something that Turkey is not prepared to give up, Kurdish insurrection or no.

Map by Joe Burgess, Janet Norquist and Natasha Perkel/The New York Times

By STEPHEN KINZER

ISTANBUL

THE capture this month of the Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan has focused new attention on the war he has waged against the Turkish army for 14 years. In recruiting fighters and supporters, Mr. Ocalan has fed on the resentment many Kurds feel for what they consider the Government's unjust discrimination against them. But he could never have built such a potent force without great amounts of help from other countries.

There are many reasons why Mr. Ocalan found foreign supporters for his bloody rebellion against Turkish rule, and why Turkey has resisted his rebellion so fiercely. Some are to be found in history, others in psychology, and still others in geopolitics.

Lurking behind them all, however, is water.

For more than a decade until last October, Mr. Ocalan lived semi-clandestinely in Syria, and the Syrian Government gave him money, arms and political cover. Iraq also helped him, allowing him to build bases along the Iraqi-Turkish border. Neither Syria nor Iraq were embracing his cause out of any love for Kurds; on the contrary, governments in both countries have fiercely repressed their own Kurdish populations.

But Syria and Iraq want water from rivers that spring from Turkish soil. Turkey has given them what it considers ample amounts of water, but rejects what it calls their "unacceptable claims." They have supported Mr. Ocalan's fighters as a way of applying pressure on Turkey to give them more water.

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers created the "Fertile Crescent" where some of the first civilizations emerged. Today they are immensely important resources, politically as well as geographically. Through a system of dams in its southeastern provinces, Turkey controls their flow and is determined not to give up its control. That is one important reason that Turkish leaders have so resolutely refused to grant any autonomy to the Kurdish region, which straddles both rivers.

Few if any countries understand the growing importance of water as fully as Turkey does. In one of the world's largest public works undertakings, Turkey is spending $32 billion for the huge Southeast Anatolia Project, a complex of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric plants. Its centerpiece, the Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates River, is already completed. In the reservoir that has built up behind the dam, sailing and swimming competitions are being held on a spot where for centuries there was little more than desert.

When the project is completed, perhaps in the next decade, it is expected to increase the amount of irrigated land in Turkey by 40 percent and provide one-fourth



of the country's electric power needs. Planners hope this can improve the standard of living of six million of Turkey's poorest people, most of them Kurds, and thus undercut the appeal of revolutionary separatism. It will also deprive Syria and Iraq of resources those countries believe they need — resources that Turkey fears might ultimately be used in anti-Turkish causes.

The region of Turkey where Kurds predominate is more or less the same region covered by the Southeast Anatolia Project, encompassing an area about the size of Austria. Giving that region autonomy by placing it under Kurdish self-rule could weaken the central Government's control over the water resource that it recognizes as a keystone of its future power.

In other ways also, Turkish leaders are using their water as a tool of foreign as well as domestic policy. Among their most ambitious new projects is one to build a 50-mile undersea pipeline to carry water from Turkey to the parched Turkish enclave on northern Cyprus. The pipeline will carry more water than northern Cyprus can use, and foreign mediators like Richard C. Holbrooke, deeply frustrated by their inability to break the political deadlock on Cyprus, are hoping that the excess water can be sold to the ethnic Greek republic on the southern part of the island as a way of promoting peace.

It is no accident that President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey is a water engineer by profession and entered public life as director of the State Waterworks Administration. His background and that of his classmate in engineering school, the late President Turgut Ozal, have done much to make Turkey so water conscious. Both men vigorously supported the Southeast Anatolia Project in the 1980's even though Western countries including the United States refused to provide loans or credits for it because they did not want to alienate Arab countries.

One of the most important developments in the Middle East in the last 20 years has been the emergence of a strong partnership between Turkey and Israel. Both countries have much to gain from it; for Israel water is among the greatest potential benefits. Israel is thirsting for water, and Turkey is overflowing with it. Intensive studies are now under way to see whether tankers, pipelines or other means can be used to send Turkey's water to its new Israeli friends. Not coincidentally, the basis for the Turkey-Israel partnership was laid when Mr. Demirel headed the Turkish Government and another water engineer, Yitzhak Rabin, was in power in Israel. "If we solve every other problem in the Middle East but do not satisfactorily resolve the water problem, our region will explode," Mr. Rabin once said. Other Middle Eastern leaders have agreed. The late King Hussein of Jordan asserted that conflicts over water "could drive nations of the region to war."

Turkey may be the world's most water-conscious country, and the Middle East the region where water issues are most urgent. But competition for water, and for the power that control of water represents, is intensifying from Africa and Central Asia to Los Angeles and the Everglades. "The world's population of 5.9 billion will double in the next 40 to 90 years," former Senator Paul Simon has written in a new book titled "Tapped Out" that examines global water problems. "Our water supply, however, is constant," he wrote, as "per capita water consumption is rising twice as fast as the world's population. You do not have to be an Einstein to understand that we are headed toward a potential calamity."

COUNTRIES that control water are likely to be the big winners of the future. Turkey is among them. Its policies have for years been shaped by a desire to use water to achieve political aims, and the policies are beginning to pay off.

"Water has been used as a means of pressure, for example the Syrians sponsoring Kurdish separatism because they want more water," said Ishak Alaton, a visionary Turkish businessman whose company has won the contract to build the water pipeline to Cyprus and is conducting a feasibility study for a pipeline to Israel. "It can also be used for peace, as we are hoping in Cyprus. You can't overstate its importance. I firmly believe that just as the 20th century was the century of oil, the 21st century will be the century of water."

One Foot in Washington

Britain's in Europe, Sort of

By ALAN COWELL

LONDON

MOST dramas have their subplots, and the talks that stalled last week over Yugoslavia's torn province of Kosovo were no exception. While the big theme was war and peace in the Balkans, a lesser-noted coda was the complicated bond between Prime Minister Tony Blair's Britain and continental Europe that, just weeks ago, promised a new hope of containing conflagration on the continent's doorstep.

Britain, of course, has always been an ambivalent European, seeking to mold the continent's affairs — often from the sidelines — even as it holds onto a special relationship with Washington that long predates European integration.

At first glance, this dual vision seems seeded with conflict. But the course of the Kosovo talks may, in fact, have validated Mr. Blair's desire to keep his options open as he tries to make the case that Britain is a major player.

The suspension of the negotiations on Kosovo until March 15 was first of all a severe blow to the prestige of the American Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright, who placed her influence on the line for three straight days in a vain attempt to emulate the American diplomatic success at Dayton, Ohio, that ended the Bosnian war.

But her very presence at the negotiations — and the use of the threat of American-led NATO bombing to get the talks started — illuminated another reality. Once again, the Americans had taken a leading role in the negotiations because Europeans, acting by themselves, could not do it on their own.

Nobody ever envisioned such talks without the Americans, but their dominant role at the end was not in the original script, certainly not as seen from here.

The negotiations began under the joint sponsorship of France and Britain — the two countries that would provide the bulk of a NATO-led ground force (along with American, Russian and other troops) to police a peace settlement. The French and British readiness to commit those forces was seen here as a token not just of Europe's frustration at past American diplomatic high-handedness in the Balkans, but also of a desire to make a new start after the tragic blunders of the recent past.

"This time we are seeing a greater effort by the Europeans to see that they get it right and do not leave it all to the Americans," Charles Grant, director of the Center for European Reform, a research group regarded as close to Mr. Blair's New Labor Government, said as the talks got under way. That in itself was a departure from the earlier days of European embroilment in the breakup of Yugoslavia, when Germany was singled out for its diplomatic clumsiness and Dutch troops under the United Nations flag stood by at the massacre at Srebrenica.

More important, this new sense of joint European endeavor was being ignited just weeks after 11 European nations (including France, but not Britain) launched their single currency, the euro. This accomplishment had challenged Britain to rethink its relationships to the Continent.

Only last week, Mr. Blair nudged his country closer to eventual adoption of the euro by setting out a tentative schedule for joining. But he hedged his plan with so many economic and political caveats that, even if Britons do overcome their aversion to abandoning the cherished pound, their country almost certainly would be the last of the four hold-outs to enter the euro-zone.

The broader implications of that hesitancy had long been apparent to Mr. Blair. As the advent of the new currency approached, he sensed that Britain might wind up on the sidelines. But he had an alternative strategy: to emphasize Britain's military and diplomatic leadership, building on what Britain sees as a privileged position in Washington that enhances its ability to mold Europe's destiny.

THAT was one element in the decision to offer a new European initiative in the Balkans. When Mr. Blair traveled to the French town of St. Malo late last year to meet Lionel Jospin, his French counterpart, he was "frustrated that the Americans were running the show on Kosovo and the Europeans were not," said Mr. Grant. The result was the so-called "St. Malo initiative" — an effort to forge a common European defense policy.

But now, a French diplomat remarked the other day, it seems that the initiative's first tests came a little too soon. Not only did the Americans turn out to have played a larger role than anticipated in the Kosovo talks, but Britain made it abundantly clear that its European commitment was intended to complement, not replace, the time-tested ties to Washington that some British critics depict as a slavish readiness to do Uncle Sam's bidding.

Alone among its supposed European partners, Britain sent its warplanes to bomb Iraq last December, while the rest of Europe — France in particular — looked on disapprovingly. And while Mr. Blair and Mr. Jospin foresaw the creation of a pan-European defense industry as part of their initiative, two of Britain's biggest defense contractors went their own way last month, announcing a merger that left potential French and German suitors smarting.

As ever, Britain seems to be carving out its own role — European by trade and geography, but not in its soul, an island only 22 miles from France that feels closer in strategic and economic philosophy to the United States.

"There are fundamental political and historical differences in the perception of security" separating Britain and its European partners, said Col. Terence Taylor of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "And because of these fundamental differences, Britain can stand with the United States where others cannot."

Indeed, after last month's British defense merger, Josef Joffe, a German newspaper columnist in Munich, remarked that the deal "will keep Britain going as a global player, which in some respects is more important than being a European power."

"Europe is doing well on economic integration, but it will not be a strategic partner for some time to come," he said.



Reuters

An American B-52 arrives in Britain as NATO prepares for possible raids on Serbia.

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هكذا عن الأعمال

The Nation

New York's Palestinian State

By JAMES DAO

WASHINGTON

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON said last year that a Palestinian state was "very important" to Middle East peace, and it seemed like a monumental political gaffe. Many Jewish groups reacted with alarm. And her husband's Administration, which has never endorsed the idea, swiftly disowned her comments.

Now, after 10 months, Mrs. Clinton's words are back on the front pages of New York City's Jewish newspapers, thanks to the First Lady's announcement that she is thinking about running for the Senate from the Empire State next year.

One of her potential Republican rivals, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, has stoked the controversy, asserting that Mrs. Clinton's remarks were "a very big mistake." And analysts are already predicting that the First Lady's position on Palestinian statehood will hurt her among Jewish voters, about 12 percent of the state's electorate.

But it's not necessarily so. A Palestinian state is not the same hot-button issue it was 10, or even 5 years ago, when endorsing the concept was akin in some peoples' minds to endorsing terrorism, many political analysts and Jewish leaders say.

"The Palestinian state is no longer the taboo subject it once was," said Thomas Smerling, Washington director of the Israel Policy Forum, an American Jewish group that supports the peace process. "At a time when you have a Likud Prime Minister negotiating with the Chairman of the P.L.O. over the size of an eventual Palestinian entity, the idea of a Palestinian state no longer seems as alarming as it once did."

Many Jewish leaders say that since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization recognized each other's legitimacy in 1993, a growing number of Jews in America and Israel have come to accept that some sort of Palestinian state will be the likely outcome of a negotiated peace process.

Several polls of American Jews conducted over the past three years support that notion. A 1998 poll commissioned by the Middle East Quarterly found that 64 percent of American Jews supported the statement, "The Palestinians should have their own country."

But even if most American Jews believe a Palestinian state is desirable, or inevitable, Mrs. Clinton's statement could still cause her grief in a New York campaign. Many Jews were troubled not so much by the wording of Mrs. Clinton's remarks as by their timing. From Washington, she spoke up in the middle of sensitive peace talks between Israel and Palestinians. To many, weighing in at that moment seemed a crass attempt to push the talks toward a conclusion favoring the Palestinians.

"Many Jews viewed her statement as supporting a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians, or at least granting Arafat a license to do it," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, referring to Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

But Mr. Foxman also acknowledged that "the overwhelming number of Jews would be supportive" of a Palestinian state if it were the result of a negotiated settlement. "It's Israel's peace," he said.

IN a sign that she is serious about becoming a candidate, Mrs. Clinton has been trying to repair any damage from her remarks. Meeting with rabbis last week in Washington, she said she supported both the peace process and a Palestinian state. "They are not mutually exclusive of one another," her spokeswoman, Marsha Berry, said.

After the meeting, Rabbi Jay Kornsgold of New Jersey told the newspaper Jewish Week, "This may impress a lot of Jews in New York."

IF supporting a Palestinian state is no longer the third rail of Jewish-American politics, what might Mr. Giuliani or other Republicans gain from keeping the issue alive?

A significant number of Jews continue to oppose a Palestinian state. But they tend to be conservatives who vote Republican anyway. It is more likely that Mr. Giuliani was using the Palestinian issue as a symbol for broader themes, political analysts said.

Raising questions about Mrs. Clinton's remarks is a way of raising doubts about her support for Israel, said Kieran Mahoney, a Republican consultant from New York. It also is another way of labeling her a liberal ideologue, said Ester Fuchs, a political science professor at Barnard College.

"Supporting a Palestinian state used to be the peacenik position, an extreme left-wing position," she said. "And that's what Giuliani has to do: Paint his opponent into a left-wing corner."

Mr. Giuliani says he has simply taken the same position as the President, who is very popular among Jews. But in helping to keep the issue alive, he risks a backlash, some analysts contend. Last year, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato accused Charles E. Schumer, who is Jewish, of missing votes on important Jewish issues. Mr. D'Amato lost the race and saw his share of the Jewish vote decline from past elections.

"I'm not sure the Mayor has the pulse of American Jewish opinion on this issue," said Seymour D. Reich, a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a supporter of the peace process.



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Suha Arafat, wife of Yasir Arafat, in Gaza last year.

Then and Now

How to Pass a Great Big Law

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON

WHEN President Reagan and Congress joined forces in the 1980's to overhaul the nation's income tax code, the political circumstances were similar to the situation now: divided government (then there was a Republican President and Senate and a Democratic House), a lame-duck President, an ideological gulf separating the parties, little public consensus about the proper legislative course and no particular crisis that required the President and Congress to take immediate action.

Yet the Tax Reform Act of 1986 was adopted anyway. Tax rates were cut almost in half. Popular deductions were scrapped. Tax shelters were abolished. The taxes of virtually every person and business in America were affected by the new law.

The experience is relevant today because the monumental tax measure was the only law enacted in the last generation that approaches the sweeping scope of the Social Security legislation President Clinton and Congress are considering.

Here are some of the lessons from the odyssey of the tax law that politicians who are now working on the Social Security system might consider:

Real Bipartisanship Is More Than Just Talk.

President Reagan, the genial Republican patriarch, and Representative Dan Rostenkowski, the bare-knuckle brawler from the Chicago Democratic machine, had little in common and no use for one another personally. But they shared the conviction that the tax system was out of whack and needed revision.

The evening Mr. Reagan announced his tax plan in a nationally televised speech, Mr. Rostenkowski, then chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, went on the air to praise the President and urge viewers to "write Rosty" if they agreed. Not once in the 18 months between then and the day the measure was signed into law did either man publicly criticize the other.

In the Senate, when the tax measure seemed to unravel totally, it was put back together again, outside the public eye, by a small group consisting of the President's agent, Richard G. Darman, and seven senators — four Republicans and three Democrats.

Nowadays, the bad blood and mistrust may be insurmountable, even though President Clinton and Republican leaders have proclaimed their fealty to bipartisanship almost every day since the impeachment trial ended.

Republicans are already accusing the White House of dishonest accounting practices. Clinton supporters have been quick to charge the Republicans with wanting to jeopardize retirement benefits by giving tax cuts to the wealthy. Badly burned every time they have touched Social Security in the past, Republican Congressional leaders worry that the President would rather have a campaign issue than a law.

When Representative Bill Archer of Texas, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, called the White House recently to ask to see the President one-on-one to talk about Social Security, he was told the time was not ripe.

Social Security reform faces hurdles that didn't stop the 1986 tax bill.

Political Leadership Can Mean Wheeling and Dealing.

In 1985, at the outset of the tax debate, President Reagan transferred James A. Baker 3d and Mr. Darman, the two most talented political maestros on the White House staff, to the Treasury Department, made them Secretary and Deputy Secretary and put them in charge of the drive for tax reform.

Mr. Darman developed what he called "the principle of binary choice." If a few key politicians had a personal stake, he reasoned, and if the rank and file in Congress were given only "a binary choice between tax reform and no tax reform," a sweeping tax bill could pass against all odds.

That is exactly what happened. Over and over between early 1985 and late 1986, when the most thorough revision of the tax code in at least 40 years was enacted, the legislation itself was essentially dead. But each time it was revived because central figures like Mr. Reagan, Mr. Rostenkowski and Senators Bill Bradley and Bob Packwood were personally committed and because other lawmakers had no alternative but to vote for whatever measure was before them at the time or to kill altogether the idea of changing the tax system.

In the House, Mr. Rostenkowski was in total command. On the morning of the House vote, he was on the telephone in his committee's library calling lawmakers and lining up their votes. He promised, for instance, special tax breaks for a stadium in Cleveland, a parking garage in Memphis, a convention center in Miami and dozens of other projects. "Politics is an imperfect process," he explained at the time.

Today, no one in the Clinton Administration has nearly the political skill and influence in Congress that Mr. Baker and Mr. Darman had. Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin has not taken a leading role on Social Security, and in any event, he may leave his post by this summer.

In Congress, the iron-fisted rule and conspicuous logrolling for which Mr. Rostenkowski was famous is out of fashion. It makes for cleaner government, but legislative accomplishment is harder.

If Goals Are Agreed On, The Details Can Be Worked Out

The individual pieces of the tax law that was eventually enacted bore little relationship to what President Reagan proposed or, for that matter, what came out of Mr. Rostenkowski's committee. The tax brackets were different. Investors lost their tax break on capital gains. Deductions of state and local income taxes were permitted, but those for medical expenses were restricted. Real estate tax shelters were ended. On balance, taxes on businesses went up, and those on families went down.

Brutal battles were fought over such details. But the basic goals were never in dispute: lower tax rates, fewer deductions, no change in the amount of revenue raised, no shift in the relative tax burden on the rich and the middle class. At issue was who the winners and losers would be within that framework.

In the case of Social Security, both sides agree on the basic goal: sufficient money must be found to provide an acceptable standard of living to baby boomers when they retire. But so far, neither President Clinton nor the Republicans who control Congress have conceded that reaching that goal will result in losers as well as winners. Some workers will pay higher taxes; some retirees will get reduced benefits.

So the debate so far has been over details like whether income-tax revenues should be used to pay retirement benefits and who should control payroll taxes invested in the stock market.

Those are important questions. But even if they are resolved, the basic goal will remain elusive.



Associated Press

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 was a synthesis of political will and bipartisan alliances. President Reagan and members of Congress at its signing.

Managed Care's Other Problem

Continued from Page 9

their appeals to Federal and state authorities.

Could there be too few denials? Don't snicker. A Presidential commission recently concluded that excessive procedures — procedures that lack scientific justification — could account for as much as 30 percent of the nation's medical bills. Surgeons perform mastectomies rather than breast-preserving surgery on Medicare patients 35 times more often in some parts of the country than in others, for no apparent medical reason. Roughly a quarter of the surgeries to implant tubes in children's ears are inappropriate.

There is, says Professor Alain Enthoven of Stanford University, an "urgent need for managed care to second-guess decisions by physicians to subject patients to needlessly risky surgery and needlessly costly tests."

Critics dismiss the self-reported New York data as unverified and unreliable. It is true that plans use different definitions of appeals and other grievances. Nor did some of the plans submit internally consistent or complete reports.

And it's not entirely clear how to interpret the low number of reported appeals. Most enrollees are healthy and present no occasion to deny care. Many denials never get appealed because patients give up easily or are unaware of legal options.

But before dismissing the data, take a close look at Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. It reported twice as many appeals, about 38 per 1,000 patients, as any other plan, and about 15 times as many appeals as the largest plans. Upon re-examination, Empire has determined that it exaggerated the actual number because its accounting system tossed in non-medical complaints like protests of premium increases. When corrected, Empire says, its reported appeals will plummet. But is even its exaggerated estimate — 7,300 appeals for about 200,000 patients — an excessive figure?

A number of medical directors of large health plans say in private that fear of consumer and legal backlash has scared them from denying reimbursement even when they are convinced the treatment is ill advised. Dr. Gordon Norman of PacifiCare of California, a large managed care plan, points to another problem: "Doctors often prefer to bend to the wishes of patients, agreeing to request diagnostic tests or procedures that they may not feel are truly necessary." The doctors put the onus on the health plan to deny their requests, leaving them "in good graces with their patients, but making the plan look like the bad guy."

Aetna U.S. Healthcare identifies another way health plans keep the number of denials and appeals low. Dr. Arthur Leibowitz, Aetna's medical director, calls it a "sentinel" effect, by which his staff keeps physicians well informed about Aetna's standards. Critics might call this bullying physicians to cut costs. That is no doubt part of the story.

But Dr. Leibowitz defends Aetna's practices by pointing to a side of managed care that the public rarely sees. It is the side that focuses on raising quality. It often tells doctors to do more, not less.

BESIDES pointing out ways doctors do too much, research also exposes ways they do too little. Physicians often fail to prescribe life-saving beta-blockers for heart attack victims or proper inhalers for asthma patients. Aetna issues reports to its doctors tracing how their care stacks up against their peers.

Empire made available short accounts of appeals for the first eight months of 1998. The names of the patients were stricken, though Empire contacted a random sample of the patients to ask whether they would take follow-up phone calls from a reporter. The picture that emerges is murky.

Empire refers appeals about experimental treatments like bone marrow transplants to outside panels of independent experts. That has virtually eliminated contentious legal challenges of this type of denial, raising the possibility that external review might blunt some of the consumer backlash over managed care. But Empire's other denials trigger a tug-of-war between a plan that tries to control costs and supervise care, and patients who demand the freedom to get the care they want.

Many of Empire's cases lie in a gray zone. Empire tells of financially strapped patients who skip paying premiums, then get hit with crushing medical bills. Employers switch health insurers, forcing employees to switch to Empire's doctors — a traumatic experience for many chronically ill patients. One parent refused to take her child, who suffered from speech and other development problems, to a doctor who had once screamed at her, triggering nightmares. Empire agreed to let the child see any other doctor in the same medical office, but the parent balked. In another case, a patient insisted on seeing a physical therapist who, she decided for unspecified reasons, was uniquely qualified to treat her back problems. Empire overturns about 30 percent of its initial denials, often after physicians produce better evidence.

The point is not that managed care does not make callous medical decisions and aggravate patients. Even if appeals are infrequent, complaints to state officials about managed care are rising, though some of the trend can be explained by rising enrollment in managed care plans, and many of the complaints involve nuisances like not answering the phone quickly or paying claims on time.

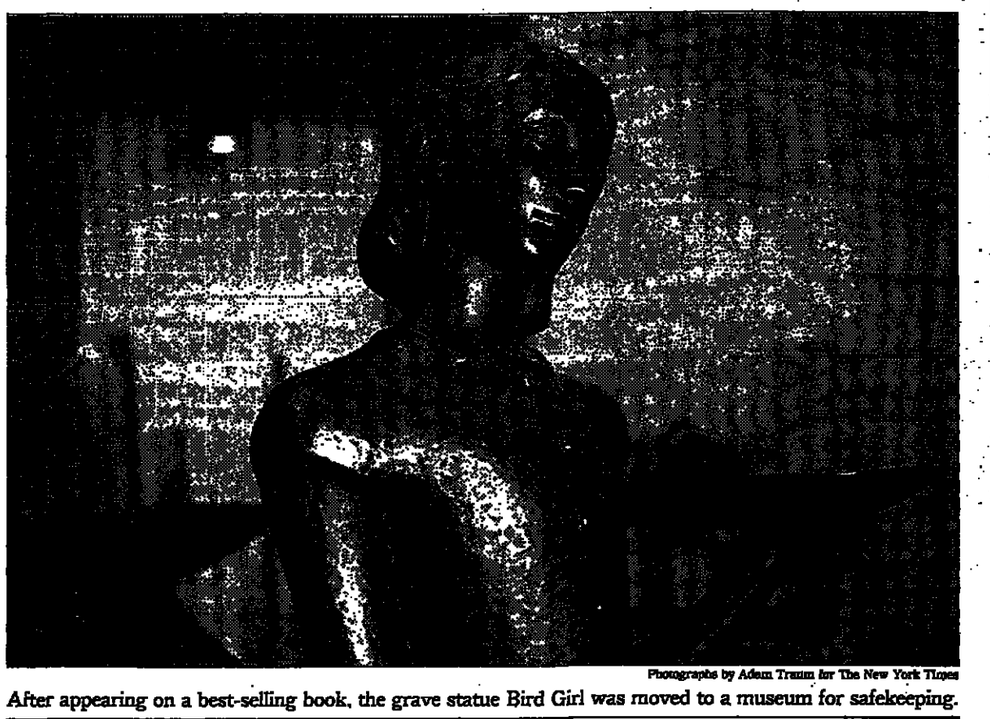
Managed care plans sometimes deny care when they should not, and sometimes pay for care when they should not. Both mistakes pose dangers. Mr. Enthoven offers a caution. "The country risks making a terrible mistake if it overreacts and treats every denial as an assault on patients," he said. "Denials are a necessary feature of a well-run plan."

THE JERUSALEM POST

Ideas & Trends

Stolen From the Grave for the Garden

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN



Photographs by Adam Traum for The New York Times

After appearing on a best-selling book, the grave statue Bird Girl was moved to a museum for safekeeping.

PERHAPS only in New Orleans could the dead be a special interest group. Their influence was recently illustrated when the City Council passed an ordinance requiring antiques dealers and auction houses to report to the police within 24 hours any cemetery artifacts that come their way. The law is a response to thieves plundering the historic "cities of the dead" and selling caches of marble angels and blessed mothers to local antiquarians. Among those arrested were several well-respected antiques dealers who, police say, knowingly purchased ornaments stolen from the graves and may even have placed orders, as if history were an à la carte menu.

"Pawnbrokers have always had reporting requirements," said Louise Fergusson, executive director of Save Our Cemeteries, the most venerable of the city's three cemetery preservation groups. "Now that antiques dealers are dealing in stolen artifacts they are going to have to deal with the consequences."

The spectacle of historic family tombs, most of them from the 19th century, robbed in broad daylight has raised the profile of those dedicated to preserving cemeteries and protecting the dead. Their worst enemies may be decorators and antiques dealers pushing the necro-politan look for the garden, the more mouldering the statuary the better. The look was in full flower in Manhattan last week at the Gramercy Garden Antiques Show, where several weeping angels — one with an $875 price tag — were spotted amid the rusting garden benches and freshly spritzed topiary. And that may just be the beginning.

"Theft is not limited to architectural objects, gates and statuary," said Katie Karrick, a historian in Lyndhurst, Ohio, who publishes Tomb With a View, a newsletter for cemetery enthusiasts (http://members.aol.com/TombView/twav.html). "My latest pet peeve is the use of metal detectors on grave sites to find lost or intentionally placed coins, jewelry and other objects." Ms. Karrick works as a historian at the Wade Memorial Chapel in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland. The chapel is famous for its Tiffany lamps, pews and mosaics. Five years ago, two bronze statues from the 1920's were stolen and have yet to be recovered.

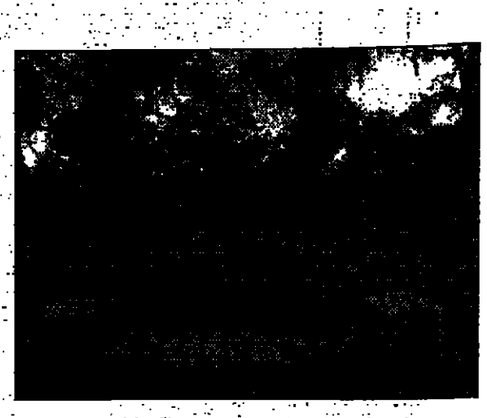
In New Orleans, Save Our Cemeteries recently completed a digitized tomb-by-tomb data base for Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, one of the most alluring and storied of the city's 31 cemeteries. Neglect remains a problem, particularly at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and No. 2 on the fringes of the French Quarter, where street crime deters many families from regularly visiting ancestral tombs.

The mobility of families and churches has taken a toll. "We are trying to locate families who have some relationship to the deceased and who will take an interest in restoring the tombs," said Michael D. Boudreaux, director of the New Orleans Archdiocesan cemeteries, which include the St. Louis cemeteries.

In New England, where graveyards have long been plagued by thieves, those who own or curate historic cemeteries are breaking their silence, alerting antique buyers to tell-tale funerary motifs: winged hourglasses (the swiftness of time), garlands (victory in death), willows (mourning), scythes (Father Time) and leaning tree trunks (short interrupted life).

Groups like the New England Cemetery Association, based at Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston, encourage families to photograph and document tombs. The private Art Loss Register, based in New York City, tracks stolen artwork for a fee and played a major role in retrieving a $50,000 fountain stolen from a Missouri cemetery.

In Florida and Texas, state agencies are surveying rural cemeteries, including plots of the poor simply marked by river rocks or seashells. "Families move, local memory becomes fuzzy and, the next thing you know the lot is for sale," said Jim Miller, the Florida state archaeologist. In rural Georgia and elsewhere in the South, the tradition of placing pottery on graves has made black burial grounds especially vulnerable to theft as the collectors' market for Southern folk pottery flourishes. These fragile, out of the way places, often unmarked except for depressions in the earth, have become "incentives for illegal activity," said Dr. John Burrison, a curator at the Atlanta History Center.



Bird Girl marked this family grave in Savannah, Ga.

Those in the "death care industry," as it is known, are finding creative ways to attract people, in keeping with the prevailing wisdom that "neglect begets neglect," as Ms. Winslow put it. Lovers of bass can now go fishing at Michigan Memorial Park in Huron Township, Mich. Others can enter contests like the one at Lake View where the prize was a four-star dinner for two at the James A. Garfield monument serenaded by the Ohio Chamber Orchestra.

But the boldest idea may be at the historic Congressional Cemetery in southwest Washington, where $100-a-year memberships for dogs have turned the 1807 cemetery into a 32-acre dog run that "provides us with people in the cemetery all day long," said Susan Olsen, a board member of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

WITHIN the antiques world, laws that require dealers to report suspicious statuary are likely to remain controversial. "If there are a billion tchotchkes in the world, only a fraction of them have been stolen," said John Sare, an attorney with Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy in New York, who represents museums and collectors. "So it makes more sense to register thefts than objects."

Right now the most secure cemetery artifact may well be Bird Girl, the bronze funerary cover girl of John Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" (Random House, 1994), who for generations watched over the Trosdal family at the Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Ga. An instant celebrity, the statue was removed for safe-keeping by descendants and now resides at the Telfair Museum of Art, where attendance has doubled since her arrival.



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The Scandal Lives On

Continued from Page 9

asked, "What's your reaction to the Juanita Broaddrick allegations?" A heartfelt sigh was his purest reaction to the Jane Doe No. 5 story about the emergence of apparently unprovable rape charges against Mr. Clinton. "Boy, the frustration I sense out there among people about continuing all of this dialogue is palpable," Mr. Gephardt began, patiently observing what the nation now well knows, that the legal system has "all kinds of mechanisms" for dealing with this latest tangent in the unending story.

Optimists should note that House Republicans, the main force behind impeachment, are reported scandal weary. "There's a death rattle from a few people still calling my office, the kind who think the Clintons killed Vince Foster," said Representative Peter T. King, a Long Island Republican who was inundated with critics' complaints two months ago when he opposed impeachment. "But there was silence — not even a hint about the impeachment — at this week's Republican conference," he related approvingly. "The specter's out there. But there's a feeling that maybe if we don't talk about it, it won't come back."

Some observers find the body politic scarred with media needle tracks. "It really is like a narcotic," says Bill Kovach, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. "You can't just go cold turkey if you're all-Monica, all-the-time." He finds the latest twist, the long-rumored rape allegation, troublesome because it reached mainline newspapers after the acquittal when the staunchly anti-Clinton Wall Street Journal editorial page provided an outlet. Such a polemical spark could muddy traditional journalism, Mr. Kovach worries.

To the contrary, one of the President's defenders from impeachment, Senator Robert G. Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, sees progress in the Jane Doe postscript. "If Jane Doe 5 emerged a year ago, there would have been far wider acceptance," he says. "The Lewinsky experience has made the media more careful and people more skeptical."

Or maybe more inured, in the view of Mark Shields, a political analyst whose normal spirit of relishing knockabout politics is notably absent from this story that will not die. "I think this thing is going to be with us," he estimates, wary as a character in those movies about the hockey-mask fiend. "Maybe not in the sense of the consciousness of the country, of people talking about it. But it will manifest itself in what we look for in a potential President the next time — someone with *no surprises*."

هكذا من الأصل

ECONOMY

It's a Global Mess Out There. What's a World to Do?

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund is often described these days as the rapid-response team for global financial crises, monitoring the financial health of 182 nations and flying teams of economists off to nurse stricken countries back to health before contagion spreads.

Just don't try calling the doctors on a weekend.

Four blocks down Pennsylvania Avenue from the fund's headquarters, the White House Situation Room hums 24 hours a day. So do the State Department's Operations Center and the Treasury's lesser-known Watch Office.

But 20 months into a worldwide financial crisis that churns round the clock, the I.M.F. still closes down on nights and weekends. Last year, one senior official of the fund recalled, "we had a desperate-sounding finance minister call in," seeking advice on a currency devaluation that might have shaken markets around the world. He reportedly had a pleasant chat with the security guard.

The story is worth remembering amid the grand political pronouncements — here, in Europe and in Asia — about the need to build a "new global financial architecture." The rhetoric has its appeal: Most everyone agrees that the system for governing the world economy that emerged from a hotel ballroom in Bretton Woods, N.H., a half-century ago — in the era of the gold standard and fixed exchange rates — is hopelessly outdated.

But there the agreement ends. Some say that what the world financial system needs is not a new design but better wiring, in the form of greater communication among investors, regulators, goverments and international oversight agencies — if not security guards with Ph.D.'s in international economics.

Over the last few months, a plethora of small-bore fixes have been proposed, everything from "exit taxes" to make investors think twice about bailing out of troubled markets to "early warning systems" to make them think twice about the stability



of the countries where they invest.

Then there are far grander designs — so many, in fact, that it might be possible to build another ballroom at the old Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods out of bound reports describing what a new financial system should look like.

In the last two months alone, the World Bank, the I.M.F. and the United Nations have all published analyses of what's gone wrong in global finance, each coming to different conclusions about responsibility for the continuing crisis.

The Council on Foreign Relations, the private public-policy group based New York, has put together a high-powered commission to propose an overhaul of the system. Its report will jockey for shelf space with similar proposals oozing out of a dozen other prominent research centers.

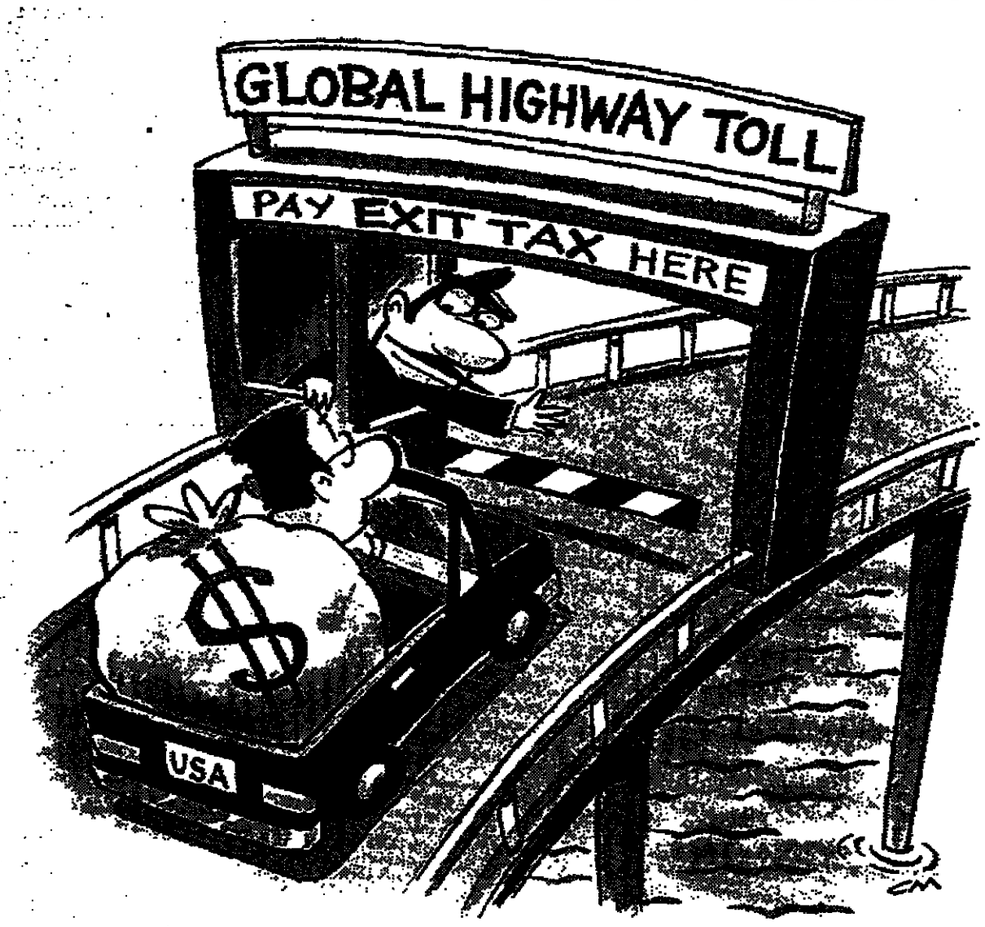
The Group of Seven industrialized nations couldn't wait for the council, so last weekend it announced the creation of a "Financial Stability Forum" to help bring order to the chaos. The idea is to begin to connect the wiring, providing a place for market regulators in many countries and the myriad international regulatory groups to talk about setting common standards for dealing with financial concerns.

To keep the forum "manageable," a G-7 statement explained, dozens of officials from each of the seven nations will be joined by no more than three members each from the I.M.F., the IBRD, the BIS and the OECD. Then, of course, "the international regulatory groupings (BCBS, IOSCO, IAIS) would be represented by two members each, and the CGFS and CPSS by one each."

The forum's first meeting is scheduled for next month.

What will change? The betting these days is not much. While some modest changes are already under way — mostly tougher disclosure requirements for countries and their central banks — a broad remaking of the system seems unlikely. President Clinton, who during the market swoon in September described the "new architecture" drive as a top priority of his second term, has spoken about it publicly only intermittently since December. And while the Treasury Department says long-term solutions will be the focus of the annual summit of G-7 leaders in early summer, skeptics abound.

"Crises are endemic to our system, and sometimes they are healthy," Kenneth Courtis, the chief



Illustrations by Chris Murphy

economist for Deutsche Bank's Asian operations said recently. "But after every one, there is always talk about rebuilding the system, until the markets get better. Then people forget about it. I suspect the same will happen this time."

For now, though, here are the hottest ideas under discussion — and the problems that plague them.

Imagine a Weather Channel for the global economy, a proposal being pushed by many European nations. If financial quakes loomed — a devaluation in Brazil, export declines in China, more capital flight from South Africa or Indonesia — the I.M.F. would broadcast the news. (It is already broadcasting summaries of its periodic reviews of member countries, with much of the information posted on its World Wide Web site, www.imf.org.) Sounds great: Tune in, then call your broker.

But there's a hitch. Weather satellites can pick up an approaching storm a lot better than experts can see a financial disaster ahead. There were plenty of warnings about Thailand in 1997, for example, but almost no one predicted a calamity.

"Nothing in my 26 years on Wall Street or my six years in government suggests that there is any predictive capability even remotely reliable enough for such a system," Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin said recently.

The I.M.F. notes that it often detects signs that a crisis is brewing, only to discover later that the crisis never arrives. "We've successfully predicted 14 of the past 6 financial crises," joked Stanley Fischer, the fund's No. 2 official.

Of course, when an alarm issued by the Weather Channel turns out to be false, everyone is relieved. But an alarm from the I.M.F. could easily set off a stampede of investors — creating exactly the kind of panic everyone is trying to avoid.

The experts call them "capital controls" — limits, or taxes, on short-term investment money that flows in or out of small nations.

The appeal is simple: If investors know that that their money will be tied up in Malaysia or Mozambique for some time, or that it will cost them a few percentage points to get it out early, they will think twice about rushing "hot money" into an economy that could be destabilized by a sudden, huge outflow of cash.

Not surprisingly, politicians love this idea. And everyone points to Chile, which taxed short-term capital until recently, when investment dried up for all emerging markets.

And there's the rub. As Malaysia learned when it banned trading in its currency, capital controls are a great way to regain sovereignty over an economy. But after a while, investors begin thinking about putting



their money elsewhere — in countries that don't tax capital.

In short, the country that sets up a tollbooth can expect to see fewer and fewer cars on the highway. And that means the country could go begging for foreign investment. Or it might use the existence of the tax as an excuse not to change its economy.

One lesson of the last two years is that bad things can happen to good economies.

South Korea, for example, clearly has the talent and the means to rank among the world's best economies. But when it nearly ran out of central bank reserves in 1997, investors panicked and the currency melted down.

To avert such panics, the I.M.F. and some economists have suggested that countries could be "prequalified" for emergency aid, in the hope that the mere existence of a big credit line would reassure investors. It would be a little like getting one of those letters from a credit card company offering a $10,000 credit line — just in case you come up short one month on the mortgage.

That was essentially the deal the I.M.F. and the Treasury offered to Brazil last year, when it described a $41 billion bailout as "precautionary." Unfortunately, that package failed to prevent a run on the currency, the real, illustrating one of the shortcomings of such aid.

Brazil received the aid in return for detailed promises to tighten its belt, and fast. But once the deal was announced, the Brazilian Congress concluded that the heat was off and there was no rush about the reforms. It took investors only two months, until January, to conclude that the reforms might be vapor, at which point they fled.

What can the I.M.F. do if a country fails to deliver on its promises?

In an extreme case, as in Russia, it can stop lending altogether. But unqualifying a country is essentially an invitation for the world to pull its money out, creating the crisis the aid was intended to avoid.

The Germans, with some support from France and Japan, want an agreement to establish "target zones" that would reduce the volatility of the world's three major currencies: the dollar, the euro and the yen. Under this plan, the major economies would coordinate their policies to keep their currencies within a specified trading range.

Mr. Rubin thinks this is one of the worst ideas he has ever heard. Washington does not want a committee of the Group of Seven dictating American monetary policy. Suppose the United States economy began sinking, and the value of the dollar sank with it. The Group of Seven might mandate that the United States raise interest rates to stabilize the currency. That could worsen the economic downturn.

Smaller economies also have a dog in this fight. Remember, Thailand got in trouble because it tied its currency, the baht, to the dollar. As the value of the dollar rose, so did the value of the baht, until it quickly became unsustainably high. And when Thailand de-linked its currency from the dollar — well, that was the day the Asian crisis started.

When a country begins to list, investors bail out. So beginning with South Korea, the Treasury has talked about "bailing in" investors.

What American officials mean is that big banks and other lenders should be compelled to take responsibility for having provided countries with the money they used so foolishly. For example, the lenders might be obliged to roll over their loans or turn short-term lending into long-term lending, rather than head for the exits. When South Korea was teetering, Mr. Rubin strong-armed some lenders to do just that.

But since then, the enthusiasm for "bailing in" has been tempered by reality. Bankers have begun to warn that if the risk of lending to emerging markets climbs too high, either they will charge the riskiest countries the highest interest rates (to compensate for the possibility that they will one day be "bailed in") or they will avoid them completely. A result is that the developing world may not develop very fast.

Barry Eichengreen, an international economist at the University of California at Berkeley, says the I.M.F. "will have to become less of a fireman and more of a policeman."



In a new book, "Toward a New International Financial Architecture" (Institute for International Economics, 1999), he explained that rather than roaring to the rescue once disaster strikes, the fund should be constantly policing compliance with international rules and regulations — and making sure that the markets understand who is abiding by the rules and who is not.

But that would require a change of culture at the I.M.F., which has often been beholden to its members, including the rule breakers. Fund officials would have to be willing to utter unpleasant news, in strong terms.

And they might need to answer their phones on the weekends.

The acronyms: **IBRD** *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, better known as the World Bank;* **BIS** *Bank for International Settlements;* **OECD** *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;* **BCBS** *Basle Committee on Banking Supervision;* **IOSCO** *International Organization of Securities Commissions;* **IAIS** *International Association of Insurance Supervisors;* **CGFS** *Committee on the Global Financial System;* **CPSS** *Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems.*

Olivetti Joins Battle For the Ears of Europe

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

FRANKFURT

EUROPE'S big national telephone companies got a warning last week: the first attempted hostile takeover against one of their own.

It will probably be some time before anyone knows whether Olivetti's $58 billion bid for Telecom Italia will succeed. Yet the attempt itself highlights the fact that the European telecommunications industry is engaged in a turbulent free-for-all, where investors have racked up some stunning returns and once-lumbering telephone companies are trading at dizzying heights.

Faced with a crush of new competitors after decades as protected monopolies, many companies are losing market share and slashing prices. And Olivetti's bid will almost certainly put even more heat on Europe's former monopoly carriers to cut their costs, streamline their strategies and explain themselves better to investors. It could also spur additional merger bids.

Most of that should be good news for a range of telecommunications companies; investors will have to weigh those prospects against the sharp run-ups such stocks have already posted. **France Télécom**, for example, went public in 1997 at the equivalent of 28.5 euros and closed on Friday at 85.25 euros. "I have been amazed that the stock has continued to go up and up," said Loretta J. Morris, a portfolio manager at Nicholas-Applegate Capital Management who bought shares at the initial offering.

Much the same momentum is true for shares of new competitors. The stock of **Colt Telecommunications** of Britain, which runs high-speed fiber optic networks around Europe, have climbed 275 percent to 1157.5 pence over the past 12 months. **Mobilcom** of Germany, a fast-growing reseller of long-distance service, has jumped nearly fivefold over that period, to 316 euros a share.

Consider **Deutsche Telekom**, Europe's biggest telephone company and the one most wounded by new competition. It has lost 30 percent of its long-distance market since Jan. 1, 1998, when the European Union ordered member countries to open their phone markets to rivals. After being caught flat-footed, it has cut many long-distance prices as much as 70 percent.

Yet Deutsche Telekom stock has surged nearly 50 percent since the beginning of January and, at 41.8 euros per share, is near its record high. Indeed, shares have already passed the target prices set by both Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs.

Chris McFadden, European telecommunications analyst at Merrill Lynch, said there are good reasons for Telekom's rebirth. The most important is that German regulators have become more sympathetic to the company. In February, the Government ruled that rivals must pay higher fees to connect with Telekom's local phone network. That makes it more expensive for rivals to compete in the local market.

The company slashed its long-distance prices 35 to 62 percent and announced more cuts to come in March and April. The moves reassured investors that the company was regaining control.

Among Germany's new competitors, **Mannesmann** remains one of the most intriguing. Formerly a conglomerate known for its machinery and giant pipes, it has largely transformed itself into a telecommunications company. Shares closed at 122.7 euros on Friday, 73 times analysts' estimates for 1998 earnings.

Its mobile telephone subsidiary, *Mannesmann Mobilfunk, has been a* spectacular success and has more subscribers than Deutsche Telekom. Mannesmann is also the controlling shareholder in Arcor, which competes against Telekom in traditional local and long-distance service.

But Mannesmann's most tantalizing prospects are now linked to the Italian takeover battle. Under Olivetti's takeover plan, Mannesmann would pay $8.5 billion for Olivetti's stake in Omnitel, Italy's second-largest cellular operator, and Infostrada, the country's biggest fixed-line competitor to Telecom Italia.

Olivetti would then use the money to help finance its takeover. If that happened, Mannesmann would arguably be Europe's foremost competitor to traditional telephone companies.

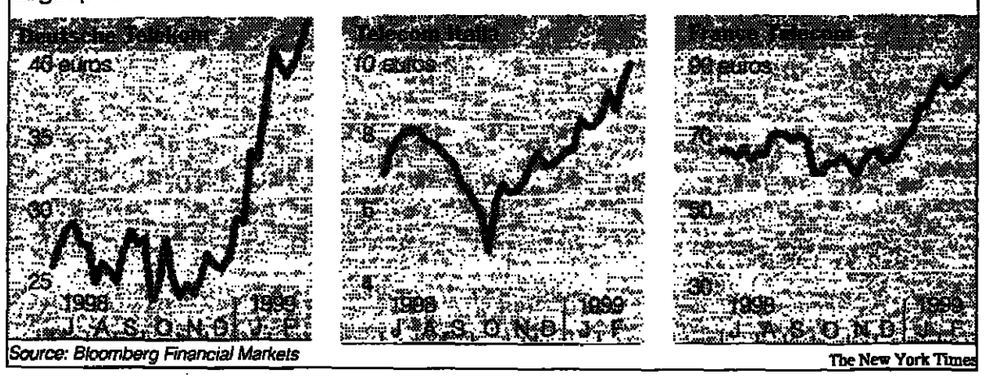
"They have already proven that they are very efficient," said François Travaillé, an analyst at BNP Equities. "If they take control of Omnitel and Infostrada, that would be very, very good news for Mannesmann." Mr. McFadden of Merrill Lynch has set a target price of 150 euros.

Then there is the question of Telecom Italia itself. Before Olivetti's bid, many analysts and portfolio managers had singled out the company as a favorite. The main reason for optimism was the recent arrival of its new chairman, Franco Bernabé, who previously won praise for his sweeping and tough-minded overhaul of ENI, the Italian electric giant.

Since joining Telecom Italia 10 weeks ago, Mr. Bernabé has assembled a strategic plan that includes heavy cost-cutting and getting rid of extraneous businesses in real estate, insurance and other fields. The company also announced plans to buy back 10 percent of its shares and a new stock option plan for top executives. Telecom Italia's stock climbed from 4.5 euros last October to just over 9 before Olivetti unveiled its offer of 10 euros last week. It closed at 9.654 euros on Friday. Mr. Travaillé has a target price of 12 euros.

Wired and Wild

Despite increasing competition, the stocks of traditional European telecommunications companies have risen sharply since last fall, in some cases shooting past analysts' target prices.



Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets

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The Diallo Legacy

The death of Amadou Diallo, the unarmed West African killed in a fusillade from four white police officers, was both a personal tragedy and a civic trauma. The strains it caused between the New York Police Department and the minority and immigrant communities are serious and prolonged. Many white citizens share the concern that the city's declining crime rate has been achieved through brutal tactics that are aimed disproportionately at people of color and threaten the civil liberties of all citizens. This concern points toward Mr. Diallo's legacy to his adopted city. That legacy is an overdue discussion about how to fulfill the demand for safer streets without rending the social fabric of a diverse and sometimes unruly city.

No one in the police department or at City Hall can afford to misunderstand the fear aroused by the 41 bullets sprayed in Mr. Diallo's direction by a police unit that prides itself on owning the night. Coming at a time when racial profiling is in the news and memories of the police assault on Abner Louima are still fresh, the seemingly disproportionate force in this case convinces residents of minority neighborhoods that aggressive crimefighters can be dangerous to them and their children.

Those who express this concern most thoughtfully, like Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, are careful to praise police for retaking New York's most lawless territories and liberating ordinary residents to move beyond their fortified apartments. But these same voices warn that too many people now fear police as much as they once feared crime. There are encouraging signs that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Police Commissioner Howard Safir are listening. The Mayor told new police graduates recently they must be respectful and restrained, that they must act as civil rights workers. The Commissioner has noted that more training is planned and that renewed efforts are being made to add minority officers to the force. He is also instituting other reforms, and has retrieved from the City Hall basement the task force report after the Louima case that Mr. Giuliani derided at the time as proposals that "make very little sense."

We hope the retrieval of the Louima report indicates a new openness to information, for there seems to be a rich mix of statistics and opinion that can help the Giuliani administration adjust police practices in a way that preserves rather than jeopardizes gains in the war on crime. Admittedly some of the information is contradictory. The Mayor noted that the number of shootings by police is down to 1985 levels. At the same time, the police unit in the Diallo case has frisked more than three people for every one arrested, a situation that feeds concerns that young men are being frisked on the basis of race. William Bratton, the former Police Commissioner whose recommendations appear on today's Op-Ed page, has argued that when crime drops to a certain level, police must adjust how they wield their authority

The same can be said for the city's chief crimefighter. There is a time for the announcement of new crackdowns and a time for following through on the spirit of dialogue embodied in the Mayor's address to the police cadets. It is that latter spirit that should guide Mr. Giuliani and Commissioner Safir to a new effort to reassure New Yorkers that the police are there to protect and serve, not to threaten in arbitrary or discriminatory ways.

Guatemala's Nightmare Past

In the annals of recent Latin American brutality, no nation can match Guatemala. The civil war that ended in 1996 went on for 36 years and killed hundreds of thousands, the vast majority of them Mayan civilians. Now the country's truth commission, known as the Commission for Historical Clarification, has issued a report whose unflinching description of what happened captures the scale of Guatemala's tragedy. It is up to Guatemala's Government to show that the country has indeed changed, by embracing the report and moving quickly to carry out its recommendations.

The truth commission was sponsored by the United Nations. Its conclusions are numbing. The commission believes that more than 200,000 people were killed, more than 90 percent of them by Government forces. Some of the state's counterinsurgency operations, the commission concludes, could be characterized as genocide. The report dismisses the military's claim that the massacres were the excesses of rogue soldiers and instead finds an "extermination en masse of defenseless Mayan communities," directed from the very top. The state, the report concludes, had become an instrument to protect a racist and unjust economic order.

This is blunter language than usually found in U.N. documents, but there is no doubt of its truth. The report is also candid about the role of the United States, which sponsored a military coup in Guatemala in 1954, trained the officer corps and worked with the intelligence services who planned and directed some of the worst abuses of the war.

But Washington has helped uncover its complicity. It provided more money than any other country to support the commission's work. Agencies that in the past refused to cooperate with Latin American truth commissions or trials turned over important files to Guatemala. The Agency for International Development and the Central Intelligence Agency were especially cooperative.

The report emerges at a time of uncertainty about whether Guatemala can become a real democracy. The commission does not name the guilty, out of fear of provoking the military. The Government's response is crucial. President Alvaro Arzù has so far been silent. He should endorse the report and quickly establish a body to see that its recommendations are carried out. The commission stressed the need to dismiss military officers who are credibly accused of serious crimes. The report calls for prosecution of those responsible for the worst atrocities and recommends payment of reparations to victims' families. The commission's courageous report describes a hellish past. Guatemala's leaders must show that those days are over.

For a Truly Independent Counsel

To the Editor:

Re "Fix the Independent Counsel Law" (editorial, Feb. 25): The way to avoid politics in the decision of whether to appoint independent counsels is to create a permanent office with limited personnel and budget, constrained by law to appropriate topics and targets.

Under this system, the independent counsel would be selected by a three-judge panel, but the panel would be selected by both the Administration and by the opposing leadership in Congress. He would be appointed as soon after the election of a President as possible and be given a tenure extending not more than six months after the President left office.

The independent counsel would also be required to file regular reports to the panel of judges, the President, the Attorney General and Congressional judiciary committees regarding the status of his investigations. RALPH E. COOPER
San Antonio, Feb. 25, 1999

To the Editor:

In citing the evidence that may be used in a special investigation of Kenneth W. Starr by the Justice Department (editorial, Feb. 22), you overlooked the charge that his office may have disclosed secret grand jury information to reporters.

The independent counsel's office has been under investigation for illegal grand jury leaks since September, when Judge Norma Holloway Johnson found that 24 news accounts of the White House scandal on their face showed that prosecutors in Mr. Starr's office repeatedly and knowingly violated Federal law by leaking grand jury testimony or other secret information (news article, Jan. 7). Judge Johnson appointed a special master, John W. Kern 3d, a former judge, to investigate the matter.

Although the status of Judge Kern's report is unclear, it would certainly be in the country's best interest if this report was made available to both the Attorney General and to the public. STAN BACHRACK
Los Angeles, Feb. 22, 1999

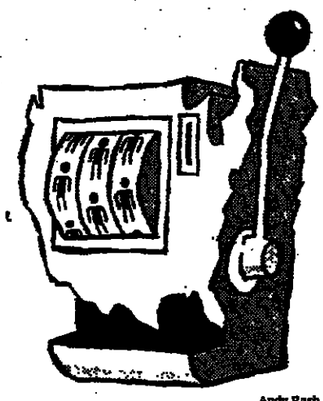
To the Editor:

Re "Fix the Independent Counsel Act" (editorial, Feb. 25): The independent counsel law was not needed in the removal of President Richard M. Nixon. It failed to bring closure in the Iran-contra affair and in the Clinton investigation. Independent has not meant responsible or unbiased. American citizens have been needlessly harassed by independent counsels. The law has never served the public good, nor can it be fixed to do so. CHRIS BREDLOW
South Moorhead, Minn., Feb. 25, 1999

G.O.P. Census Plan: Big Government Lives!

To the Editor:

I thought that the Republican Party was for reducing the cost of Government, especially bureaucracy, and instead having Government agencies run as efficiently as possible using methods that their cost-conscious corporate counterparts would use. Given that the Republicans are now willing to spend an extra $2 billion, or "whatever it takes," to conduct the census (news article, Feb. 24) using a method that is known to be less accurate and less efficient than sampling, I guess I was mistaken. AURORA MENDELSOHN
Boston, Feb. 24, 1999



Andy Rash

Why Not a Lottery?

To the Editor:

Re "Ruling Said to Raise Census Cost by $2 Billion" (news article, Feb. 24): Judging by the ways people across the country flock to lotteries, casinos and any other remote way of winning anything, perhaps the census takers should consider adding a few million dollars in fabulous prizes for the people who participate. That would be a drop in the bucket in a budget of $7 billion, and would be a cost-effective way to increase the number of participants (and thus the census's accuracy). TIM LEAVITT
New York, Feb. 24, 1999

Children Are Victims Of China's Urbanization

To the Editor:

Re "100 Million Restless Chinese Go Far From Home for Jobs" (front page, Feb. 24):

Although rural to urban migration is an inevitable consequence of industrialization and modernization, China's migrants face additional obstacles because of a lack of "hukou," the household registration status that entitles them to benefits in cities.

Lack of urban hukou not only creates problems for adult migrants in terms of getting housing and other social benefits but also has detrimental consequences for the children of migrants, who without it have a school enrollment rate that is nearly 30 percent lower than that of local children. ZAI LIANG
LEAH WEISS
Flushing, Queens, Feb. 24, 1999
The writers are, respectively, an associate professor of sociology and a graduate student at Queens College, CUNY.

Crackdown in Belarus

To the Editor:

You correctly note that President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus has unfairly tried businessmen like Vasily Staravoitov simply for expressing criticism of the Government (editorial, Feb. 22). However, the abuse of rights in the Staravoitov case is more serious. While being held in pretrial detention for the last several months in appalling conditions, Mr. Staravoitov has contracted life-threatening illnesses, including a serious case of tuberculosis. Lawyers who have tried to secure his release for medical treatment have been threatened with disbarment and imprisonment.

Silencing those critical of the Lukashenko regime by prosecuting them and harassing their defense lawyers violates well-established international laws protecting civil and political rights. Such tactics highlight the singular determination of Mr. Lukashenko to maintain his grip on power at the expense of fundamental rights. JEFFREY PRESCOTT
New York, Feb. 25, 1999
The writer is a fellow at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

Arms Race on the Road

To the Editor:

It's great that the Environmental Protection Agency is mandating cleaner sport utility vehicles (editorial, Feb. 20). But that does nothing to reduce the danger they create for other drivers. Most S.U.V.'s are built on a truck chassis, which means they are not designed to absorb their share of the impact of a crash. Furthermore, they ride so high that they override cars' bumpers and door sills. Many drivers buy sport utilities in self-defense. This is tantamount to an automotive arms race. The Government, which was remiss in allowing these trucks to be marketed as personal transportation, must find a way to get them off the road. DAVID HOLZMAN
Washington, Feb. 20, 1999

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Editorial Observer/GAIL COLLINS

Monica the Marketer Changes History's Script

Monica Lewinsky returns to the world this week, with the Interview, the Book, and then — what? A regular spot with Barbara Walters on "The View"? A consultant's post on CNN? Another shot at the public relations game? Ms. Lewinsky's list of references has expanded quite a bit since her last foray into the job market. Who would not want to hire the woman whom members of the *House impeachment* team have called "intelligent," "poised," "mature," "appealing," "articulate" and "a very impressive young lady"? What employer would not look twice at a candidate who appears to remind virtually every Republican in Congress of members of his or her own family?

The first $1.2 million that Ms. Lewinsky netted for talking about her affair with President Clinton will not go far for a woman who has required the ministrations of so many expensive lawyers. But her potential as a profit center does not seem anywhere near tapped out. An army of Monica marketers is selling international rights to photo spreads. A fragrance line can not be far behind.

Until now, one of the more consistent laws of American social history was that having flings with prominent politicians does not pay. Remember Elizabeth Ray? Fanne Foxe the Argentine Firecracker? Donna Rice? Gennifer Flowers? Their post-scandal lives ran along very different trails, but in no case

> For past political exes, the wages of sin were always low.

could you argue that romping with a political alpha dog turned out to be a good career move. A No Excuses *jeans* ad does not equate with long-term employment.

While Ms. Lewinsky's 20th-century predecessors tend to have depressing stories, the 19th-century ones are sometimes downright tragic. Kate Chase Sprague, the daughter of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, attempted to shield her lover, Senator Roscoe Conkling, when her husband exposed their affair in 1879. In gratitude, Mr. Conkling dropped her cold and continued on his career as the powerful Republican boss from New York. Ms. Sprague's marriage was ruined and she became a lonely exile. Meanwhile, the Senator berated his wife (stashed away in Utica) for "discussing family matters of a private nature" when she confided her own humiliation to a friend.

Madeline Pollard, the star of the most celebrated political sex trial of the 19th century, won a breach-of-promise suit against William Breckinridge, a Kentucky Congressman who used to give lectures on the importance of chastity at a school where Ms. Pollard was a student. Ms. Pollard followed the usual political mistress career pattern — she made an unsuccessful try for a stage career. But her story is also an example of the ways the world has changed over the last hundred years. Testimony at the trial revealed that Ms. Pollard yearned to be a great writer, and had made a habit of sleeping with older men to pay her tuition. It is hard to imagine any of the Congressional firecrackers from the 1970's trading sex for education, and Ms. Lewinsky, by her own testimony, did not have literary ambitions on her mind when she ran into Mr. Clinton at the White House.

Warren Harding's mistress, Nan Britten, pioneered the idea of writing her own Presidential memoirs after Harding's relatives refused her requests for a stipend. She supported herself instead with royalties from "A President's Daughter," an under-the-counter best seller about their love child that Ms. Britten claimed was intended to lend support to illegitimate children everywhere. That was Ms. Britten's last moment in the limelight, but the passage in which she described lovemaking in the Oval Office coat closet will live on forever.

Kay Summersby wrote a very profitable book denying that she had conducted a wartime romance with Dwight Eisenhower, then later wrote a second successful book saying she had. Ms. Summersby did not live long enough to report on which experience was more pleasant. But for most women in her situation, neither alternative has worked out very well. Mary Allen Peck always denied that she ever slept with Woodrow Wilson, but she died lonely and went down in history anyway as the woman who gave the President the nickname "Peck's Bad Boy." Judith Campbell Exner kissed and told about John Kennedy, but she does not seem to have had a very good time since.

These stories serve an important function. There is nothing more powerful than the allure of power, and you cannot remind young people too often about the downside of illicit sex with a man who has to run for re-election. (We have not made enough progress in getting women into powerful jobs to tell whether the rule will work both ways.) "I was planning a life with him. I didn't understand I was expendable," said Linda Jones after her affair with Henry Cisneros, then the Mayor of San Antonio, ended in an extraordinarily messy disaster. Neither party seems to have been wholly the victim in that romance, but the upshot was that Mr. Cisneros returned to his wife and Ms. Jones is a divorcée serving time in jail.

It is hard not to wish Ms. Lewinsky luck in breaking this chain. Anybody who has seen her sexual indiscretions turned into a joke in Iraq and a protest poster in Sudan deserves to be cut a little bit of slack. But the weight of history is against her, and those cautionary tales were so useful it is a shame to give them up.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Why Not Take Cars Of Drunken Drivers?

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 23 front-page article on New York City's efforts to seize the cars of those arrested for drunken driving is encouraging. Finally, someone is getting tough with people who put the lives of tens of thousands of safe drivers and pedestrians at risk.

You report the case of Pavel Grinberg, an immigrant charged with driving while intoxicated, and you quote his lawyer as saying "he is terrified. It's really overwhelming for him," because a conviction could threaten Mr. Grinberg's immigration status.

Perhaps someone should remind Mr. Grinberg's lawyer that the rest of us are also terrified. We are terrified by those who place our lives at risk because of their irresponsible behavior. MORRIS WOBL
Cherry Hill, N.J., Feb. 23, 1999

To the Editor:

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani seems to forget constitutional law when he suggests that New York City could try to seize the cars of those acquitted of drunken driving by starting civil proceedings (front page, Feb. 23).

The issue of whether a criminal defendant in a case involving the state may be tried in both a criminal and civil proceeding (where the property in question had not been purchased with illegal proceeds) went before the Supreme Court in U.S. v. Halper. The Court held that a defendant who already has been punished in a criminal prosecution may not be subjected to an additional civil sanction to the extent that the second sanction may not fairly be characterized as remedial.

According to the Court, a civil sanction would be remedial if it reimbursed the government for actual costs arising from the criminal conduct. In the New York City case, seizing a drunken driver's car is far from a remedial sanction. Rather, it would amount to a second attempt to punish the defendant for the same act. MARTIN S. BLOOR
Jersey City, Feb. 23, 1999
The writer is a law student.

To the Editor:

You report that New York City may try to seize through civil proceedings the cars of those acquitted of drunken driving if it concludes that the drivers were intoxicated (front page, Feb. 23). The city should reconsider.

Studies have found that many consumers, for instance, will not pursue even meritorious cases when they have been sold defective products. This makes sense, given the high cost — both emotional and financial — of litigation.

Cars are expensive, but litigation can be more so. The city may end up with the cars not because their owners misbehaved, but because their owners were unwilling to pay for a lawsuit. JEFF SOVERN
Jamaica, Queens, Feb. 23, 1999
The writer is a professor of law at St. John's University.

To the Editor:

The cost of storing an estimated 5,000 cars a year to be confiscated from those charged with drunken driving could be offset by the inevitable decrease in car accidents, injuries and deaths (front page, Feb. 21). However, if this is not enough, why not present the storage bill to the guilty parties? After all, having the public pay for the mistakes of problem drinkers would only be enabling them and, besides, the innocent have paid enough. DAVID E. BERGSTEIN
New York, Feb. 22, 1999

To the Editor:

There is a way to prevent drunken-driving recidivism that is simpler than Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's Draconian strategies in New York City (editorial, Feb. 24). With an ignition interlock device, a driver must pass an alcohol breath test before the car will start.

As of 1996, studies on more than 8,000 repeat offenders in 13 locations in the United States and Canada showed recidivism (an offense within two years of the previous one) that ranged from 3.9 percent to less than 1 percent — a steep fall from the usual rate of 30 percent.

Tampering with or bypassing this device has not been a significant problem, and costs have been economical for the driver and the agencies administering the programs. GEORGE F. GITLITZ, M.D.
Sarasota, Fla., Feb. 24, 1999

Movie Reels No More

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 22 Business Day article on digital film projection leaves one big question unanswered: Could the new technology eventually allow for the simultaneous worldwide release of American movies?

Currently, film distributors recycle prints from United States and Canadian theaters for exhibition in Latin America and parts of Europe. That means that most movies open in foreign markets two to six months after their North American release.

What happens when the commercial prospects of American films are iffy overseas? These movies — regardless of quality — may never be seen in the rest of the world.

American movies already represent the near-total domination of American pop culture around the world. The global application of digital projection technology could take that a step further. ADOLFO GARZA
Mexico City, Feb. 22, 1999



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Dispelling New York's Latest Fear

By William J. Bratton

There was a crisis of fear in New York City in the early 1990's, and for good reason. Annual totals of 2,000 homicides, 6,000 shootings and 100,000 robberies are enough to frighten anyone. Residents had little confidence in the ability of the police to control and reduce violence, especially in minority neighborhoods.

But from 1994 on, the Police Department changed the reality and the perception. The department replaced what had been an uncoordinated, scattershot enforcement effort with focused strategic plans. In the 1990's, felony crimes have been cut in half, homicides reduced by nearly 70 percent, and order has been largely restored. The crisis of fear about crime is over.

But now we know that New York is facing a different crisis of fear. Though minority communities have benefited enormously from reduced crime, they now see themselves as under attack by the police. The tragic shooting of Amadou Diallo has become a rallying point for general resentment about aggressive police stops and searches.

People are worried that they themselves — and particularly their teenage sons — are at risk, but from cops. They are not feeling the benefit of safer streets.

Although we can't know for certain until all the facts are in, the Diallo shooting appears to have been an error committed by fallible human beings. It is beyond imagining that these officers gunned down an innocent man intentionally. The New York Police Department shows more restraint in the use of force than do Federal enforcement agencies and most other big-city police departments.

But all that is irrelevant to the current crisis of fear. People are often afraid of crime out of proportion to its reality, so it should not be surprising that they fear police abuse out of proportion to its reality.

The challenge for the city government and the Police Department is not to prove frightened people wrong. It is to make visible and effective changes that ease their fears and restore their confidence in the police. The department can combine several strategies to find a way out of this crisis of fear.

> With changes, the police can win the public's confidence.

The first strategy is openness. A police organization that willfully shuts itself off from scrutiny and public exposure can lose public trust. The role of police power in a democracy should be the expression of social consensus. But how can a consensus be reached if the Police Department, responding to orders from above, routinely withholds information from the state comptroller and the public advocate as well as from the press and public?

When I was New York City's Police Commissioner from 1994 to the spring of 1996, I tried to run an open department. But Mayor Rudolph Giuliani closed down this effort. He forbade "ride alongs," in which the public or press accompany patrolling police officers. He also dismantled the department's public information staff because its officials were too free with information, and he questioned the loyalty of anyone who didn't speak from a prepared script.

Things have gotten even worse. The concrete barriers around City Hall and Police Plaza that were erected last year send the wrong message. If you don't want your Police Department to appear as an occupying army, you shouldn't run the city from a fort.

The second strategy is outreach and recruitment in minority communities, so that the police will look more like the city they serve. It was one of my continuing frustrations as Police Commissioner that I could never get the money to start a youth career program that would have significantly increased the college-educated minority representation in the department.

I was drawn to policing at a very early age, and I believe that many minority youths could be, too, if the effort were made to interest them during their high school and post-high school years. The program would have begun with our existing summer youth academy for 12-to-14-year-olds and continued on through a proposed public safety high school and all the way to the City College system.

This would have fostered friendlier relationships between young people and the police. It would also have provided focus, direction and mentoring to teen-agers, while simultaneously giving the Police Department a stronger field of potential candidates to choose from. Unfortunately, the idea was not allowed to go forward. Even an expansion of existing cadet programs, which were 70 percent minority, was stopped, despite the recommendations of the department and of experts at John Jay College.

The third strategy is imaginative police training. I believe that expanding the department at this time would be a mistake. Instead, resources should be used more wisely to raise the pay of the officers we have, to attract the best qualified new candidates and to create a "learning organization" that continuously and tirelessly trains them throughout their careers for the challenges and complexities they face on the streets.

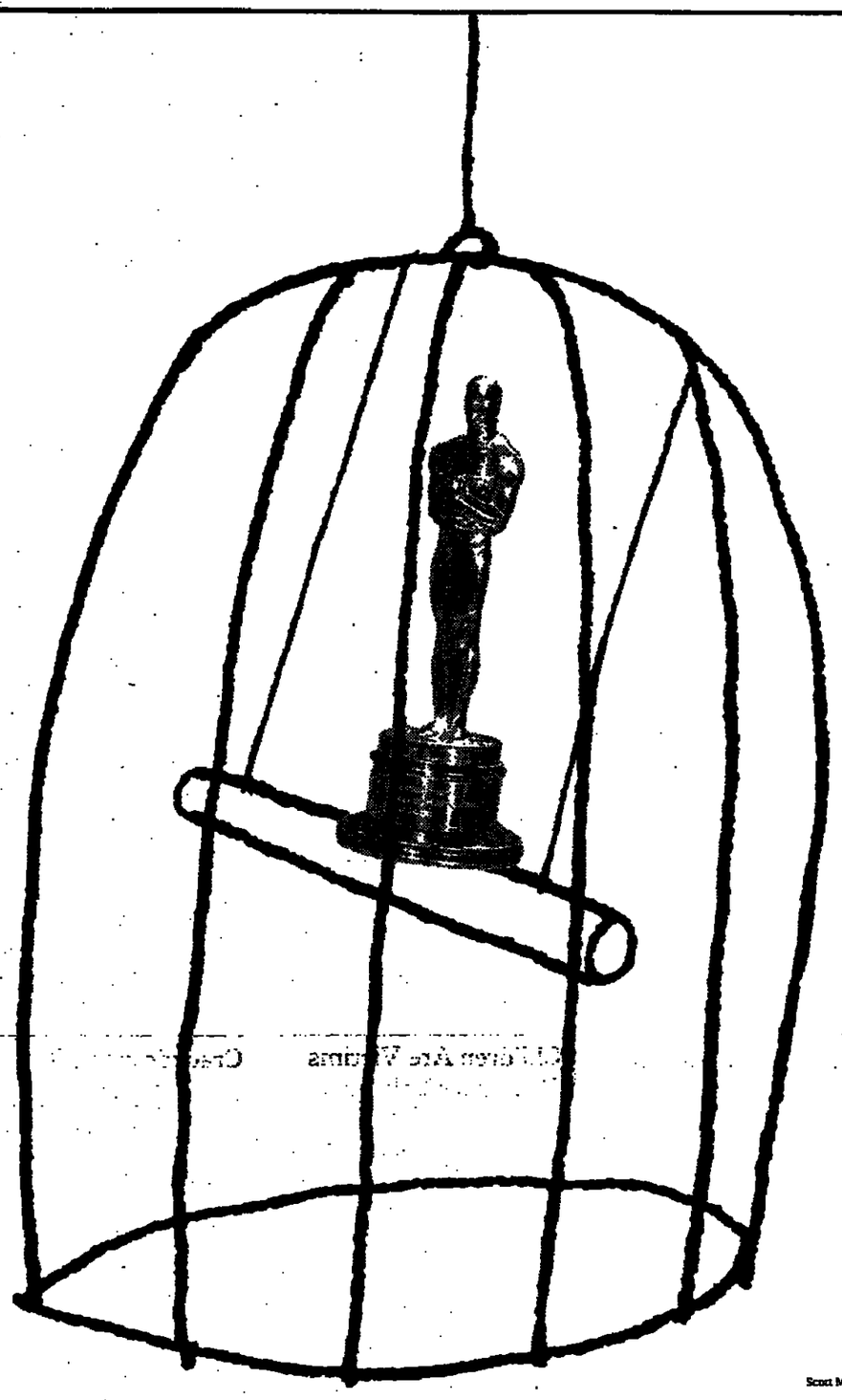
The Police Academy must be given the resources to establish itself as a center of leading-edge ideas and reality-based training. It should put into practice many of the recommendations made by the panel on police-community relations appointed by the Mayor in 1997.

There is no more difficult challenge in a free society than the legitimate exercise of force. There are thousands of police officers in the department who meet that challenge every day with extraordinary discretion, judgment and intelligence. It's up to the department and the city to support them with open lines of communication to the public, a genuine commitment to minority recruitment and the best and most sophisticated training.

New York City should not waste this opportunity — and, yes, the current crisis should be viewed as an opportunity — to face up to and resolve the issue of relations between the police and minority residents.

With crime down so dramatically, we have a chance to forge a lasting alliance in the communities that need the police the most. Not only would such an alliance heal racial divisions in our city, it would also give New Yorkers more of what they want: continued success in reducing crime and a police force that is better woven into the fabric of city life.

William J. Bratton was New York City Police Commissioner from 1994 to 1996.



Scott Menchin

Hollywood Hypocrisy

By Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

> If Elia Kazan had exposed Nazis, would he have been condemned?

Elia Kazan is a wonderfully creative director who has contributed brilliantly to the arts of drama and film in the 20th century. He is also a man who in 1952 gave the House Committee on Un-American Activities the names of people he had known during his brief membership in the Communist Party 16 years before. And he is a man whose impending recognition by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is driving some people into orgies of self-righteous frenzy. Mr. Kazan, they say, is a scoundrel who should apologize for past misdeeds in politics before he receives an honorary Oscar for his lifetime achievement in the arts.

Mr. Kazan, the protesters say, is an informer, and his offense is unforgivable. But is that what the protesters really mean? Is informing unforgivable in all circumstances? Had Mr. Kazan been a member of the German-American Bund naming underground Nazis, would they have condemned him just as much? Or a former Klansman who informed on his hooded brethren? Or a former Mafia thug who informed on the mob? Or a member of the Nixon White House who informed during Watergate? Or a whistleblower who disclosed government malfeasance? No, informing per se is not Mr. Kazan's offense. His true offense in the minds of the Hollywood protesters is *that he informed on the Communist Party.*

Now, informing on former associates is not an easy choice, even though Mr. Kazan named no names not already known to the committee. Under the pressure of the time, Mr. Kazan searched his conscience and went one way. Others searched their consciences and went another way. Those who were not subject to the pressures of the time should not rush to judgment. "No one knows what he'd do," Lee Strasberg, the director of the Actors Studio, told Mr. Kazan, "until he's in it."

Mr. Kazan's critics are those — or latter-day admirers of those — who continued to defend Stalin after the Moscow trials, after the pact with Hitler, through the age of the gulag. One wonders at their presumption in condemning others for recognizing the horrors of Stalinism — horrors that the entire world, including Russia, acknowledges today.

The presumption is especially acute when it comes from those who, when they testified before HUAC, declined to declare their true beliefs. (Bartley Crum, one of their lawyers, urged that they declare them.) Instead they preserved secrecy, refused to argue their beliefs and posed as champions of a Bill of Rights that a Stalinist regime would instantly have abolished. If the Academy's occasion calls for apologies, let Mr. Kazan's denouncers apologize for the aid and comfort they gave to Stalinism.

Those were horrid times. Little has disgraced Congress more than the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Its inquiry into Communism in Hollywood was among the most indefensible, scandalous and cruel episodes in the entire history of legislative investigations. The idea that the presence of a few Stalinists and fellow-travelers in the film industry was a grave threat to the republic rates high in the annals of Congressional asininity. Collaboration with these Congressional clowns had its elements of disgust and shame, as Mr. Kazan himself admits in his memoir.

But was it worse than collaboration with the Communist Party — the party that for years, as Eleanor Roosevelt wrote in 1945, "taught the philosophy of the lie."

"They taught that allegiance to the party and acceptance of orders from party heads, whose interests were not just those of the United States, were paramount" she said. "Because I have experienced the deception of the American Communists, I will not trust them."

These were indeed horrid years — horrid for HUAC's unhappy targets, horrid for HUAC's unhappy collaborators. In 1970 Dalton Trumbo, a major target, spoke interesting words to the Screenwriters Guild.

"Caught in a situation that had passed beyond the control of mere individuals," he said, "each person reacted as his nature, his needs, his convictions and his particular circumstances compelled him to. There was bad faith and good, honesty and dishonesty, courage and cowardice, selflessness and opportunism, wisdom and stupidity, good and bad on both sides."

Mr. Trumbo concluded: "When you who are in your 40's or younger look back with curiosity on that dark time, as I think occasionally you should, it will do no good to search for villains or heroes or saints or devils because there were none; there were only victims."

Arthur Schlesinger Jr., the historian, has twice won the Pulitzer Prize.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Choking on Lust

HOLLYWOOD

There was a splashy premiere in Westwood with flashbulbs popping, fans screaming and stars preening. The movie is called "Cruel Intentions." It is not the Linda Tripp story. It is yet another screen adaptation of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," the Choderlos de Laclos novel about sexual manipulation and betrayal.

The twist this time is that it's a teen movie. Liaisons, like, Dangereuses. The diabolical seducers are not jaded French aristocrats but jaded Upper East Side teen-agers who go to a tony prep school. Buffy the Vampire Slayer, née Sarah Michelle Gellar, steps into the cultivated ice-queen role once played by Glenn Close. Valmont is a spoiled rich boy who goes to a shrink and drives a vintage 1956 Jaguar.

As though the original French story of deflowering on a bet were not racy enough, the makers of "Cruel Intentions" have their fresh-faced teens indulging in cocaine and pot, as well as lesbian and homosexual encounters.

We're a long way from Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland here, or even "Beverly Hills 90210." Once this R-rated movie might have scandalized Mom and Dad. But in a society that is saturated with sex, the threshold of shock keeps dropping.

D.C. races against L.A. to see which capital can be more outrageously unexpurgated.

In the Washington version of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," two cynical middle-aged women, Linda Tripp and Lucianne Goldberg, manipulated and betrayed Monica Lewinsky. The Republicans tried to paint Monica as an innocent child, turned into damaged goods by President Valmont, but she was miscast.

There is not much innocence to be found anywhere. *Everybody* is peddling flesh.

The February cover of "Esquire" is indistinguishable from "Playboy," with Pamela Anderson embodying "The Triumph of Cleavage Culture." The magazine ponders whether breasts might be "a symbol of the new culture of falseness that pervades the corridors of power."

The new macho men's magazine Maxim offers a how-to feature headlined "Any Woman, Any Time" (one tip: "Pick up women with a sock puppet!"). Magazines for young women now all ape sultry, man-trapping "Cosmopolitan," with stories like "Hot New Reason to Have Sex (as if you needed one)" in Jane and "Get a Better Body for Sex" in Marie Claire. In her new magazine, Talk, Tina Brown will have a section devoted to "thoughtful" essays on sex.

In movies, there's "8mm" about a private detective, played by Nicholas Cage, investigating the death of a young victim of the underground world of snuff films, sadomasochism and bondage. It is about a social issue, not soft porn, Mr. Cage told Premiere: "It's a cautionary tale of what can happen if you don't keep an eye on your children."

The L.A. Times reports that Fox TV has a prototype for a comedy show called "Action," about a movie producer who plays with a prostitute, pops pills and uses foul language.

Cable news and talk shows, of course, are obsessed with sex. They tried to wedge in Jon Benet Ramsey during a post-impeachment lull that saw ratings plummet, but they were clearly thrilled to see Jane Doe No. 5 wash up. The Washington Post says advertising rates for Barbara Walters's Monica interview were quadrupled to $800,000 for a 30-second spot.

> L.A. slaps X rating on D.C.

The reason Bill Clinton's scandal did not shock America is because it was coherent with the culture. The President merely attached the Oval Office to the rest of the country, and brought it down to the level of all the less revered venues where people are thinking and talking about sex all the time — to such an extent that sex is not sexy any more.

When everyone is trying to be sexy, the only way to make a splash is not to be sexy. Which brings us to Al Gore and Bill Bradley.

On Thursday night, while excited teen-agers hooted in the balcony at "Cruel Intentions," Democrats gathered at the home of Barry Diller for a reception for Mr. Bradley, co-hosted by Disney chief Michael Eisner.

Most other Hollywood big shots are pushing the Vice President. As much as they love Bill Clinton, they say they they are looking forward to a White House that would be more "Pleasantville" than "Peyton Place."

"With Gore you get the best of Clinton without the distractions," said one top director.

When Hollywood urges Washington to be less entertaining and sexy, you know things have gone seriously awry.

In America

BOB HERBERT

Staring at Hatred

How deep is the hatred?

After being sentenced to death in Jasper, Tex., last week, John William King was asked if he had anything to say to the relatives of his victim, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man who was chained to a pickup truck and dragged along a country road until his body literally was torn apart.

King, a 24-year-old white supremacist, did indeed have something to say. Grinning, he assured all within earshot that Mr. Byrd's grieving survivors were welcome to perform a sex act on him.

Most Americans would like to believe that the attack on Mr. Byrd was an aberration, that it was so far over the top, so sick and inhumane, that it should not be viewed as representative of a much larger societal problem. The reasoning is more or less as follows: The vast majority of Americans were repelled by the murder, arrests were quickly made, and the legal steps toward the ultimate societal sanction are already being taken. Let's move on.

That attitude presupposes that race hatred and other forms of prejudice and intolerance in America are not nearly as deep or as dangerous as the attack on Mr. Byrd might suggest.

A long litany of tragedies tells us otherwise.

Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old college student in Wyoming, died last fall after he was kidnapped, robbed, tied to a fence, beaten in the head with a .357 Magnum, tortured with cigarettes, taunted as he wept and begged for his life, and finally left alone and helpless in near-freezing temperatures. Authorities said he was murdered, at least in part, because he was gay.

A recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., which tracks hate crimes and hate groups across the country, is filled with other horrible examples that occurred last year.

In February, the report said, a dark-haired young woman named Amy Robinson was abducted in Fort Worth, Tex., and murdered by two white men who used her for target practice. They were reported to have burst out laughing when she died. The original plan, according to one of the men, was "to go out and shoot black folks." Ms. Robinson was chosen because the men thought she was biracial. They were mistaken. Ms. Robinson was, in fact, white.

In October in Buffalo, N.Y., a group of black teen-agers attacked a 41-year-old white man, Gary Trzaska, as he was walking to his car. Mr. Trzaska, who was gay, was beaten and stomped to death. Witnesses said they saw the teen-agers jumping high in the air so they could land on Mr. Trzaska's head with both feet. They said the boys appeared to be gleeful as they killed their victim.

Last spring a group of whites "armed with brass knuckles and chanting 'white power'" attacked Lance Cpl. Carlos Colbert, a 21-year-old black Marine, as he left a party in San Diego, Calif. As many as 30 men joined in the assault. Corporal Colbert was not killed, but his neck was broken. He is paralyzed from the neck down.

Last May a racially charged exchange in a bar led to the murder of Mark Dale Butts, a 35-year-old white man. He was beaten to death in a cemetery in Victor, Colo., by a group of black men and teen-agers. A shovel was used in the attack. Authorities said Mr. Butts was beaten so hard the handle of the shovel eventually broke.

> The Jasper murder was no aberration.

Morris Dees, the chief trial counsel of the Law Center, said he is surprised by what appears to be the increasing frequency and viciousness of such attacks. They are being committed by whites and blacks, he said. Much of the hatred is fueled by the growing number of organized hate groups and the proliferation of Internet sites devoted to racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and other forms of intolerance.

The desire to turn away from a crime as grotesque as the murder of James Byrd in Jasper, Tex., is understandable. Once justice is done, what's the point of wallowing in the hideousness of the crime?

But there is a need to understand the rage and the frustrations and the impulses that lead so many of us to mayhem in the name of some warped sense of superiority, or inadequacy, or fear, or whatever.

Dragging someone to his death behind a truck may be unusual. But torturing, maiming and killing people because they fit a certain despised profile is an everyday occurrence. We can hardly stop it if we're not even willing to look at it.

THE ARTS

Suburbia Outgrows the Old Images in the Arts

By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN

EARLY in the film "Pleasantville," a teen-age boy named David flops onto the couch of his suburban home, eyes fixed on the television for a rerun of a 1950's sitcom, all banter about Mom's meatloaf and the school science fair. Just behind David, meanwhile, his mother argues over the telephone with her ex-husband about who's stuck with custody of the boy this weekend. Before long, in the pivotal moment of "Pleasantville," he finds himself transported through the picture tube and into the show.

That scene conflates the two standard images of suburbia in American culture. It is either the scrubbed and cheerful utopia of such actual television series as "Ozzie and Harriet" and "Leave It to Beaver" or else it is the miserable, materialistic dystopia of novelists like John Cheever and Rick Moody. From either extreme, the chroniclers of suburbia agree on this much: it is white and upper middle class.

In the last generation, however, suburbia has evolved in startling ways, becoming ever more varied by race, class and ethnicity and eluding the grasp of all but a handful of perceptive artists and entertainers. As highbrow films like Todd Solondz's "Happiness" and popular-culture phenomena like "The Brady Bunch" revival peddle the same old clichés, reaping money and praise by pandering to audiences that share their smug presumptions, figures as disparate as the author Junot Díaz of "Drown," the filmmaker Tamara Jenkins of "Slums of Beverly Hills" and the comic D. L. Hughley of the television series "The Hughleys" are presenting the complex portrait of suburbia circa 2000.

"I always feel really alone in this conversation," says Mr. Díaz, a Dominican immigrant reared in central New Jersey. "The world I've created feels lonely." He could be speaking for the fellow artists who depict a suburbia of low-rent apartments beside gated developments, of strip malls and toxic-waste dumps, of the improbable commingling of ambitious immigrants, upwardly mobile minorities and working-class whites whose security is imperiled by downsizing and deindustrialization.

"The suburbs have changed, but our way of looking at them hasn't changed," says Rosalyn Baxandall, a professor of American studies at the State University of New York in Old Westbury and co-author of the forthcoming book "Picture Windows: How the Suburbs Happened." "The stereotype has always been that the suburbs are for rich people who ran away from the city, and there's alienation and conformity. But when I teach my classes, my students are mostly nonwhite. I've had 17 languages in a class. Some of these families are taking in boarders. It's a big, big revelation."

Demographic data lend authority to what Mr. Díaz and Ms. Baxandall describe. The percentage of blacks who live in suburbia rose from 23 percent in 1970 to 32 percent in 1990, the demographer William Frey of the State University of New York at Albany has found. Some 40 percent of all minorities are suburbanites, according to the 1990 census. The Los Angeles suburb of Monterey Park, which is 60 percent Chinese, has emerged as the archetype of the so-called "ethnoburb."

The counterbalance to the movement of immigrants and minorities into suburbia, though, is the deterioration of inner-ring suburbs. These communities, clinging to the borders of cities, have been growing poorer, more segregated and more troubled for decades, losing population nearly as rapidly in some cases as urban ghettoes. Several years ago, the Federal Government surrounded its own office complex in Suitland, Md., just outside Washington, with a chain-link fence topped by razor wire.

The seismic shifts that have engaged scholars have escaped many makers and consumers of culture. "What's missed is the diversity of suburbia," says Greg Hise, a historian at the University of Southern California. "At least with urban novels and films, you see cities as a place of freedom, autonomy, possibility. With the suburbs, the writers and producers and directors are working with a set of accepted wisdom. We see the same stories about suburbia because we expect them."

The stereotype of nuclear families in split-level homes was born with the suburban boom that followed World War II. But it was television that mirrored this version of the suburbs to the nation and the world. "Father Knows Best," "The Donna Reed Show" and their ilk delivered what the historian Stephanie Coontz has termed "our most powerful visions of traditional families." Homogeneity was part of the package. Desi Arnaz of "I Love Lucy," perhaps the only Hispanic star on a network show in the 1950's, lived in the city. So did Buddy Sorrell (Morey Amsterdam) on "The Dick Van Dyke Show," TV's first identifiably Jewish character.

Inevitably the counterattack came, replacing one cartoonish version of suburbia with another. Journalists and social scientists — David Riesman in "The Lonely Crowd," William Whyte in "The Organization Man," Betty Friedan in "The Feminine Mystique" — argued that beneath the contented exterior of the salaryman and his stay-at-home wife lurked an anomie that Ms. Friedan called "the problem that has no name." Only the rare contrarian like Herbert Gans in "The Levittowners" portrayed a nourishing sense of community among the tract houses.

Novelists, in turn, transmuted the theme of suburban malaise in fiction. Sloan Wilson created both a character and a catch-phrase with the public relations man Tom Rath in "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit." (Gregory Peck starred in the film adaptation.) Robert Sheckley ("The Ticket to Trania") and Frederick Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth ("Gladiator-at-Law") made their critiques in the form of science fiction.

Still, it was three naturalistic writers who supplied literature's most indelible images of postwar suburbia as the American dream gone awry. John Updike's "Couples," set in a town dismissively dubbed Tarbox, put wife swapping into the cultural lexicon. In a vast body of short stories and novels, John Cheever painted the WASP elite in the moral emptiness of its country clubs and commuter trains; the places he created — Bullet Park, Shady Hill, St. Botolphs — defined a social geography that could be reduced to the shorthand "Cheever Country." Philip Roth, meanwhile, disposed of the ethnic arrivistes, typified by the gauche and acquisitive Patimkin family in "Goodbye, Columbus."

> All but a few movies and novels miss the variety of the suburbs.

The young radicals of the 1960's put the critique in overtly political terms. In their founding manifesto, the Port Huron Statement, the Students for a Democratic Society pointedly described themselves as having been "bred in at least modest comfort" in "the wealthiest and strongest country in the world" and yet "looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit." Suburbia was something to rebel against.

Folk music took up the cry. Malvina Reynolds's 1963 song "Little Boxes," later covered by Pete Seeger, reduced suburbia to the refrain "Little boxes, little boxes, little boxes all the same." The contempt for suburbia became so nearly unanimous in the emerging youth culture that even the Brill Building songwriters Gerry Goffin and Carole King and the made-for-television band the Monkees collaborated on "Pleasant Valley Sunday." "Another Pleasant Valley Sunday," went its chorus, "charcoal burning everywhere. Another Pleasant Valley Sunday here in status symbol land."

"If Dylan or the later Beatles had been singing that, being social critics, it almost would have been expected," says Paul Levinson, a visiting professor of communications at Fordham University. "But the Monkees — they're so suburban themselves, in effect. It's as if suburban people themselves were skewering the vacuity of their own lives."

Such perceptions continue to thrive in some of the most highly praised recent films. Even as affirmative action, mass immigration and growing income inequality have altered the shape of suburbia, these movies, whether satirical, realistic or fantastical in tone, trot out all the familiar indictments.

ANG LEE'S screen adaptation of "The Ice Storm," Rick Moody's novel about family discord in affluent New Canaan, Conn., had as its centerpiece that hoariest of clichés, a "key party" in which married couples trade partners. Peter Weir's "Truman Show" puts a patina of fantasy on its predictable attacks. Truman Burbank, an insurance agent whose life is the subject of a continuous sitcom, literally cannot escape the oppressive perfection of his made-for-television suburb.

As written and directed by Gary Ross, "Pleasantville" carries a similar sensibility to even more overwrought ends. The visual conceit of the film — that the eponymous suburb is shown in black and white — merely hints at the didactic style. It takes David, the teen-ager deposited from the 1990's, to bring art, emotion and color to town, and when he does, such predictable villains as the local bowling league and the Chamber of Commerce respond by desecrating paintings and burning books.

Todd Solondz, a native of New Jersey who calls his production company Suburban Pictures, means to speak for the misfits in a monochromatic world. His debut film, "Welcome to the Dollhouse," centers on a girl gawkily teetering into puberty who is tormented by her classmates and ignored by her family. In tracing the lives of an extended family in his next feature, "Happiness," Mr. Solondz reserves his greatest affection for the outsiders among them — a failed songwriter, a boy discovering his sexuality, a grandmother being divorced by her husband of 40 years.

Such compassion, though, relies on cheap shots against representatives of the suburban status quo. The white-collar father in "Happiness," a Cheeveresque figure with his car phone and rep tie, cannot simply be unmasked as a hypocrite or a souse; no, he turns out to be a pederast who rapes his son's playmates. When Mr. Solondz's camera in "Dollhouse" surveys a suburban home, it lingers over a veritable catalogue of bad taste — gaudy afghans, mismatched paneling, green shag carpet, cabinets stuffed with Yodels and Ring Dings. This kind of satire, far from seeking to jar an audience out of its complacency, sneers along with it from a superior distance.

"You know, people are always putting New Jersey down," says Helen, a writer who is a major character in "Happiness." "None of my friends can actually believe I live here. But that's because they don't get it. I'm living in a state of irony."

Irony, though, is an indulgence of the entitled. The material comforts ridiculed in a film like "Happiness" shimmer like mirages for the artists of new suburbia. Tamara Jenkins, the writer and director of the autobiographical film "Slums of Beverly Hills" (1998), grew up with a car-salesman father obsessed with getting his children into the renowned schools of that tony L.A. suburb. That meant bouncing from apartment to apartment, often with an unpaid landlord in the family's wake.

"For someone like me, who didn't have things, the usual middle-class sitcoms created an anxiety, an inferiority complex," Ms. Jenkins says. "With 'The Brady Bunch' I was fixated on the architecture; their house had an upstairs and a downstairs. I used to wonder, How did the people on the shows get that stuff — couches, end tables, clothes? Because we had so much trouble accumulating stuff."

She says she "identified with the black sitcoms — 'Good Times,' 'Sanford and Son' — because those people were struggling."

When Ms. Jenkins ultimately put her experience onto film, not even her colleagues quite understood just how marginal suburban life could be. "After shooting the interiors of the apartments, people got concerned it looked too depressing," she recalls. "I'd told the production designer that these apartments are bare except for what the previous tenant left behind. They said, 'But it's a comedy.' I said, 'You read the script; poverty is not funny.' "

Eric Bogosian captured a similarly tenuous existence in his 1994 play "Suburbia," which was later filmed by Richard Linklater. The characters, gathering nightly around a convenience store, have been through the military or menial jobs, and their sense of stunted horizons and vanished opportunities infuses several of the most dramatic scenes.

At one point, a high school classmate-turned-rock-star arrives at the convenience store in his limousine. One of the regulars, a former football star now drinking away his nights, starts to flirt with the musician's young publicity agent. "You think we're alike, Erica?" he asks. "Deep down, way down," she answers. He fixes her in his stare and says, "It's a mistake to think that."

Later in "Suburbia," a girl from the convenience-store group overdoses. The Pakistani manager, exasperated by the "drunks" and "bums" on his property, cries: "You people are so stupid! What's wrong with you? You throw it all away."

While Mr. Bogosian cites several influences on "Suburbia" — the television show "Roseanne" and Donna Gaines's book about a plague of suburban suicides, "Teen-Age Wasteland" — he drew primarily on his own past. Mr. Bogosian grew up as the son of a bookkeeper and a hairdresser in Woburn, Mass., the same blue-collar suburb of Boston that is the setting for the book, and now the film, "A Civil Action."

"I wasn't writing about 'The Other,' " Mr. Bogosian says. "I wasn't writing about the exotic. A lot of my experience in Woburn had to do with class. One of my best friends' fathers was a carpenter. Another was a truck driver. I had a friend whose father was a laborer, who'd come home from the job and lay on the couch and get drunk. We were being told in school that Woburn was a town to be proud of because it'd been a capital of shoe manufacturing in the 1890's. But we knew that was all gone. When I ran cross-country in high school, I went past all the empty factories."

Immigrants like Junot Díaz have often inherited exactly such suburbs, and many of the short stories in "Drown" capture the social geography in meticulous detail. Mr. Díaz's characters live, as his actual family did, in a low-income apartment complex surrounded by the malls, cineplexes and municipal pools of the middle class. The autobiographical Yunior, as much as he is a bilingual and bicultural figure, does what so many Anglo suburban children before him have done: get car-sick on family trips to relatives in New York; take a boring job in the shapeless years after college; experiment with sex in the basement; waste afternoons smoking pot.

In painting this milieu, Mr. Díaz came to realize his distance not only from the white chroniclers of suburban privilege but also from black and Hispanic writers who, like him, were reared outside the city. "One of the things I see in an M.F.A. program is how many of the writers of color are from very middle-class backgrounds," says Mr. Díaz, who teaches at Syracuse University. "But what they portray are low-income people. You can't begrudge anybody what they want to write about. But it shows that even writers are responding to pre-set notions of who 'we' are and how 'we' are supposed to be viewed."

Nowhere may such self-abnegation be more pronounced than in rap music. Such bands and performers as EPMD, Public Enemy, Busta Rhymes and Boss were reared in suburbia but rarely if ever reflect it in their songs. The most extreme example, Ice Cube, spent much of his childhood in a Los Angeles suburb attending integrated schools and then a trade college. Yet he went on to fame for his gangsta raps celebrating drug deals, drive-by shootings and sexual conquests in the South-Central slums that his own family had labored to escape.

"Because hip-hop started off in the inner city, the street was the place where you had to get your pedigree," says S. H. Fernando Jr., a rap producer and the author of the social history "The New Beats: Exploring the Music, Culture and Attitudes of Hip-Hop." "You hear a lot of rappers saying, 'You have to represent' — meaning represent the inner-city life style, the 'hood, even if you didn't come from it. The suburbs are seen as corny, bland, Middle America. Who wants to know about that?"

As if to answer that question, every Tuesday night several million viewers watch the ABC sitcom "The Hughleys," the story of a middle-class black named Darryl Hughley who has just moved with his family into a mostly white suburb. The running gag of the show relies on Darryl's belief that his neighbor Dave is a closet bigot. "The man does wear a lot of flannel," Darryl says to his wife in one episode, "and he got those big belt buckles, too."

The most trenchant moments come when Hughley himself, the owner of a vending-machine company, grapples with his fear that by moving his family out of a black, urban neighborhood he has compromised his racial identity and solidarity. "You're on the slippery slope to lose your blackness," a friend from Los Angeles chides Darryl in the series pilot. Later in the episode, having watched his daughter choose a white doll rather than a black one in a toy store, Darryl moans, "I feel like a stranger in a strange land."

Yet that land surely looks stranger to the artists and audiences who remain stuck in the stock images of "Beaver" and Cheever than it possibly could to someone like Darryl Hughley, who is both a pioneer and a citizen of the new suburbia.



Paramount Pictures

Jim Carrey in a made-for-television suburb in "The Truman Show."

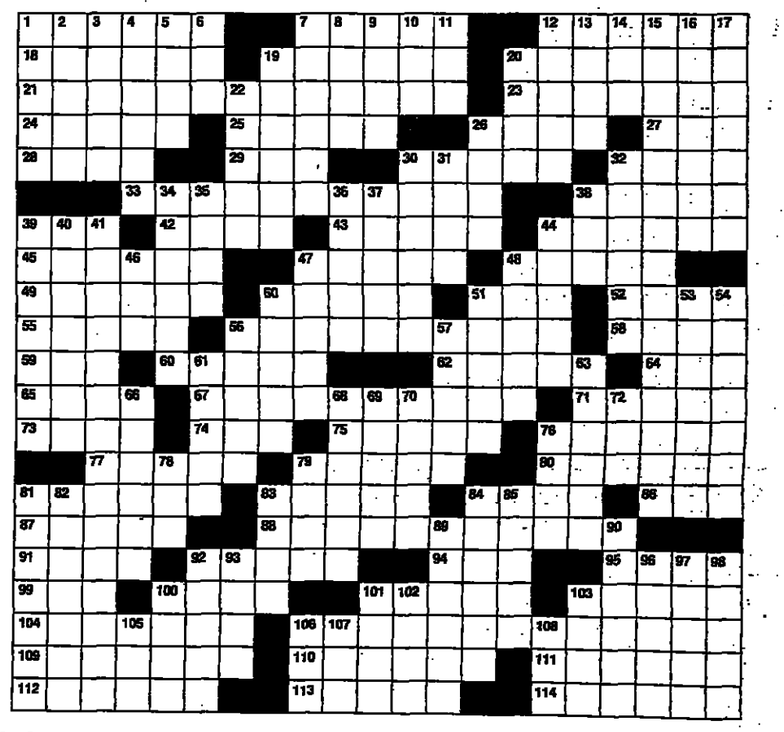


New Line Cinema

Joan Allen, left, and Reese Witherspoon in "Pleasantville."

ALIEN ABDUCTIONS

By Dave Tuller / Edited by Will Shortz



ACROSS

1 Mophead
7 Dessert pastries
12 Scored in bezique
18 "1984" conspirator
19 Where lemons are picked?
20 Opium compound
21 Fixing the space-time continuum?
23 It started a little before 1000 B.C.
24 Controls
25 Baffled
26 Thank-you——
27 Pants problem
28 Ago, in Aberdeen
29 Average
30 High priest in Exodus
32 Newcastle's river
33 Geology?
38 Migraine headaches, so to speak
39 Ability to hit a target
42 Donkey drawer
43 Inevitable
44 Lose everything
45 Part of a percussion section
47 Courses
48 —— tree (Indiana state tree)
49 Commercial passage
50 Worth
51 Be attributable (to)
52 "Be ——!" ("Come on!")
55 Rube
56 Amtrak fares?
58 Turn about
59 Capek drama
60 Barry Sanders and teammates
62 "Nonsense!"
64 1970's-80's cause
65 Singer who co-starred in "Johnny Mnemonic," 1995
67 Limit placed on PBS?
71 Limping, maybe
73 Words from Mr. Moto
74 Efficiency symbol, in physics
75 Modern fat substitute
76 North Wind personified
77 "Aunt —— Cope Book"
79 Dogtrot and foxtrot
80 Successor car to the Studebaker
81 Off-shore lodging
83 Set of plates
84 "The King and I" role
86 Time to play taps
87 Like a landowner
88 Arachnids that appear over the summer?
91 Some Oklahoma Indians
92 Beget
94 Fabric name ending
95 Counting method
99 Queen Eliz., e.g.
100 Attention ——
101 Experienced, old-style
103 Vow taker
104 More hot-tempered
106 Waterway named for a talk show host?
109 Like some foreign movies
110 God of death who underwent resurrection
111 Three-time Emmy-winning host
112 Bound
113 Like most store items
114 Texas oil city

DOWN

1 Strong beers
2 Key color
3 Flame throwing, maybe
4 Fall preceder?
5 Vacation souvenirs
6 Abbr. in a business letter
7 3.26 light-years
8 Spur
9 Bother for a boxer
10 Because of
11 It's a mess
12 Western landscapist Thomas——
13 Land south of Judah
14 Football Hall-of-Famer Ford
15 Addendum to a log?
16 They might backfire
17 Like some sympathies
19 Most doll-like
20 "Later!"
22 Gridiron stat
26 First-of-a-kind 1960's TV star
30 Flower part
31 Top-notch
32 They connect to the knees
34 Ed of "Married ... With Children"
35 Players
36 "—— goes according to plan ..."
37 Gobble
38 Calculus calculation: Abbr.
39 Semiramis's realm
40 Communicating
41 People who study cuneiform?
44 Talk show chatter
46 Arctic explorer John
47 Coin of Pakistan
48 Little nothing
50 Woman of letters?
51 Most of the world
53 Golden
54 Ushers
56 TV event of 1977
57 Old foes of the Spanish
61 Model
63 Bratislava resident
66 Caloric cakes
68 Without exception
69 Stews
70 Like 70's fashion, now
72 Coach Parseghian
76 Judge's seat
78 Kind of school
79 Shot up
81 Blushing
82 Harmonica-like instrument
83 Comfortable —— old shoe
84 Bikini events
85 New York's Penn Station is on it
89 Sea nymph
90 Labor
92 Hurry
93 Western friend
96 Marries, perhaps
97 "None But the Lonely Heart" writer/director
98 Sealy competitor
100 Home page
101 Motor with some oomph
102 Its flag is green, white and orange
103 Small fastener
105 "Go get 'em!"
106 "Baloney!"
107 Mother bear, in Málaga
108 Prefix with terrorist

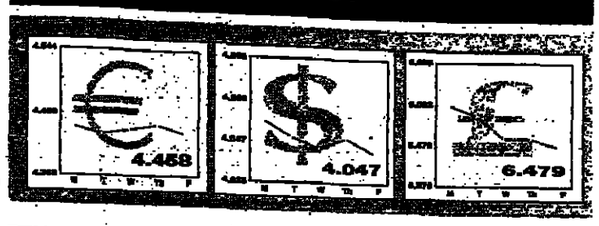
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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N	A	G	S	A	T	G	A	D	L	E	S	T	C	L	O	P	S	
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B	Y	E	B	Y	E	S	I	R	D	I	E	A	N	N	E	I	R	A
O	L	E	O	T	O	T	A	L	M	Y	F	A	I	R	L	A	D	Y
R	O	R	Y	A	L	I	C	E	A	E	O	N	S	A	T	O	Z	
S	U	S	S	C	A	S	E	S	P	A	N	T	S	B	E	N	E	

هكذا من الأصل

صكوا من الأصل

Today's shekel



In brief

Zisser buys Elbit Medical at $145m.

Elron Electronic Industries, which is partly owned by Discount Investments, has sold off control in subsidiary Elbit Medical Imaging to Europe Israel Ltd., owned by businessman Mordechai Zisser, for $145 million. Elron, Israel's leading multinational hi-tech holding firm, sold 8,575,448 shares (about 37 percent) of EMI at $16.90 a share. It expects to see an after tax profit of about $20m.

"Our sale of the holding in EMI follows our strategy to focus Elron's future growth primarily in the information technology and communication fields," Uzia Galil, chairman and CEO of Elron said. Europe Israel operates in three main areas: hotel ownership, shopping and entertainment centers and high-tech ventures. It is anticipated that the company will use Elbit Imaging's large cash reserves to invest in unrelated areas. The deal should be finalized by the end of March.

Nicky Blackburn

IEC raises $500m. in US bond issue

The Israel Electric Corporation last week raised $500 million in a bond issue managed by Salomon Smith Barney, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, and Merrill Lynch. The 10-year bonds were issued at an interest rate of 7.765%, and the returns are earmarked for IEC's development programs. More than 55 US institutional investors purchased the bonds, IEC said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Israel, India to increase flights

Israel and India last week finalized an agreement to increase weekly flights between the two countries by El Al and Air India from three to seven weekly, the Transport Ministry said yesterday. Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom said the new agreement allows El Al to fly to both New Delhi and Bombay. *Itim*

Dangerous toys confiscated

Ministry of Industry and Trade inspectors on Saturday confiscated thousands of toys described as "life endangering," such as explosive chains, in the town of Tira. The ministry said the inspectors received a special permit to perform the confiscation on Shabbat, since they were being sold at a special Shabbat market.

Jerusalem Post Staff

$549m. invested in 82 new Jordanian hotels

AMMAN – Some 390 million Jordanian dinars ($549 million) was invested in Jordan last year for the construction of 82 new hotels. A Tourism Ministry report issued Saturday said many of the investors hope to cash in on higher millennium tourism to biblical and historic sites. By next fall, the country expects to have a total of 211 hotels with 22,000 beds. The report said a additional $155 million were spent last year on refurbishing Jordan's 33 motels and state-owned apartments, which have a total of 856 rooms. *AP*

Delta to raise $40 million on Nasdaq

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Delta Galil intends to raise between $40 million and $45m. by offering shares on Nasdaq next month, the company announced yesterday.

The company intends to sell some 3.85 million shares, representing 20.44 percent of the company's stock capital after dilution. The shares would be sold based on a price of $9.5 to $11.5 per share, compared with NIS 38.5 per share ($9.4) at the opening of the trading day on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Dov Lautman, Delta's chairman and largest shareholder, intends to sell as part of the offering some 500,000 shares for $4.75m. to $5.75m. Delta and Lautman intend to float another 15% of the company if the offering is oversubscribed.

It should be noted, however, that Lautman is willing to sell the shares at a price which is substantially lower than the NIS 60.38 per share paid by him last year when he raised his stake in the company by acquiring 12.52% from US-based *Sara Lee International Corp.* for $10.3m.

Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns and ING Barings will act as underwriters.

Israel's largest textile manufacturer previously considered offering shares on the London Stock Exchange but decided not to do so, as market conditions in the US appeared more favorable. The long-awaited offering was postponed last year due to high volatility on international financial markets.

Delta's CEO Arnon Tiberg has *stated previously that the funds* raised from the public offering would be used to open another sewing plant in Romania, adding that the company is also considering the acquisition of other textile companies.

The company announced two weeks ago that net income rose 44% last year to NIS 76.6m., while revenues decreased 4.9% to NIS 1.26 billion.

Delta is the nation's largest manufacturer and marketer of textiles and is one of the largest private-label underwear manufacturers in the world.

The company was one of the first local firms to benefit from the peace process, as it moved manufacturing to neighboring countries with low labor costs. Delta currently manufactures in Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Scotland.

Lautman holds 56% of the company and Sara Lee, the world's *largest clothing manufacturer*, has some 30%. The remainder is traded on the TASE.

Cellcom sales soar 33% to NIS 2.8b.

RESULTS

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Mobile telephone operator Cellcom Israel sales last year soared 33 percent to NIS2.8 billion, the company announced yesterday. Net profits totaled a record NIS 310 million, an 11 percent increase on 1997's NIS 281m.

The company, which began operating in 1995 and now holds between 53 and 54 percent of the market, paid tax for the first time in its short history. Pre-tax profits were NIS489m., 60 percent higher than the corresponding figure of NIS 306m. for 1997.

Cellcom's revenues for the fourth quarter of *1998 amounted to NIS 764m., about 5% more* than in the preceding quarter. Net profit after tax was about NIS 77m., in the fourth quarter , a rise of 47% on the same period in 1997.

This is the second year of profit for the cellular phone operator, *which has some 1.1 million subscribers* and is jointly owned by Discount Investments, the Safra Group, and Bell South.

"In the first two years of our existence we suffered from an image problem, but we can satisfactorily say we have overcome this, as our profits show," said Jacob Perry, president and CEO of Cellcom. "*The 1998 figures reflect a steady trend towards strengthening the company's economic soundness.*"

Perry said the growth in company profits can be attributed to a pronounced rise in the number *of private and business sector subscribers* (305,000 new subscribers joined Cellcom last year); from dealing with options and derivatives on the shekel, and better control of bad debts.

In 1998 Perry said that Cellcom invested heavily in the development of new marketing plans and communication packages tailored to meet customer demand.

At the start of this year, Israel's third cellular operator, Partner, began operating a full service, but Perry said he does not think it will not affect Cellcom's earnings in 1999. "We can't look at Partner's entrance as something we should ignore. They are going to be a player, but Cellcom will keep its leading position in the market. Some customers are going to change over, but based on the forecasts for growth in the cellular market in Israel we think the effect will be minor. Partner won't affect our profits."

WIS to issue bonds on Wall Street

By DAVID ROSENBERG

A US-Israeli joint venture that is aiming to be the first to commercially produce and market high-resolution satellite images said yesterday it plans to turn to Wall Street to raise capital this year.

Managers of West Indian Space Ltd. (WIS) said they plan to issue bonds via a private placement that would help finance the $250 million they need to launch and operate their first three satellites.

"We will issue bonds in the coming weeks through Merrill Lynch," WIS chairman David Brodet told a news conference, but declined to detail how much the company is seeking or other terms.

"After the first launch a year from now, the strategic plan is to go to the market with an initial public offering," he said.

WIS is a joint venture between Core Software Technology and two Israeli companies, state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries and El-Op Electro-Optic Industries. It plans ultimately to launch and operate eight satellites at a total cost of $750 million in a *program called Eros.*

The satellites will provide clients with photos in which an object as small as one meter can be distinguished, a level until now only available to government and military intelligence agencies.

"Only this year are high-resolution earth images going to be available on a commercial basis," said WIS chief executive officer Stephen Wilson. "This represents a 100-times improvement over what's been available in commercial channels."

Managers said they expect WIS to be among the first two companies to offer the services. But with the market for such services expected to grow to $6 billion–$7 billion a year by 2007, they said they expect French, Russian, and other US competitors to enter later. (Reuters)

Gov't, Histadrut to ink pension deal today

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz are to sign a new pension agreement in Jerusalem today, the two sides announced yesterday.

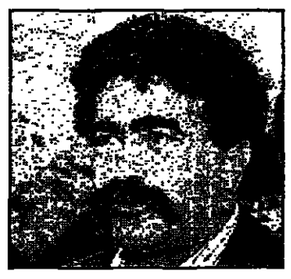
Under the terms of the long-awaited agreement, new public sector workers would be transferred to "accumulating pensions" in which they contribute to pension funds. This formula would replace the current, fully state-funded pensions.

The Finance Ministry said the agreement will affect some 300,000 public sector workers. In the past the Treasury has estimated that the actuarial cost of these pensions is as *high as NIS 300 billion. The actual* meaning of the new agreement is that public sector workers will now have to allocate part of their income to pension funds.

One of the major achievements of the Histadrut is that retiring workers will receive a pension of up to 80% of their salary compared with 60% currently.



Meir Sheetrit
(Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)



Amir Peretz
(Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

In a statement Sheetrit said the agreement has far-reaching implications for the economy. He added that the decrease in the government's involvement in the pension market will allow it to transfer more resources in the future to high-growth sectors.

Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik, who was the key player in the talks which lasted more than four years, said the "agreement's implication will be felt by the coming generations."

Under the terms of the deal new workers will have to make a monthly pension contribution of 5.5% of their salary while employers will have to allocate an additional 12%.

The deal is expected to meet fierce objections from insurance companies and private pension funds, which threatened in the past to petition the High Court of Justice once the agreement is finalized.

These companies and funds *complain that while the signing of the* agreement represents a breakthrough in terms of the government's long-term share in the overall pension burden, the Histadrut pension funds will continue to be the main benefactors, as workers will not be given an option to invest in what is known as "executive insurance policies" and be forced to join the funds run by the union.

Lockheed, IAI in deal worth potential $53m.

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Lockheed Martin has awarded a contract to Israel Aircraft Industries to produce 20 vertical stabilizers in a deal potentially worth $53 million.

Lockheed, which is competing against Boeing to supply the IAF with its next line of fighter jets, said that if its F-16 Block 50+ (plus) jet is chosen then it would give IAI's Lahav Division exclusive rights to supplying all vertical stabilizers for all F-16s made in *the future.*

That deal would be worth some $25 million over five years.

It has also said that Lahav would receive a contract worth $28 million for wing frames.

But Lockheed has conditioned *the full contracts on the IAF* opting to purchase 50 F-16s.

Should the IAF purchase less, then the contracts would be smaller, Lockheed executives said.

The air force is currently reviewing its data and is expected to chose between the Boeing-produced F-15I or the cheaper F-16 Block 50+.

A decision is expected this spring.

'98 forex reserves hit record $22.7 billion

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Bank of Israel's foreign currency reserves climbed last year to a record $22.7 billion from the previous year's $20.3b., the central bank reported yesterday.

The bank's current income sharply rose last year from $300 *million to $1.6 b., mostly attributed* to interest and capital gains earned due to declining yields in US and European bond markets, and to exchange-rate differences between a host of foreign currencies and the dollar.

The bank's income came mainly from the government's overseas borrowing. This was done through bond issues, in the framework of *the US-sponsored loan guarantees* for the absorption of post-Soviet immigration.

The private sector hardly contributed to the Bank of Israel's *income, at a time when the central* bank consistently refrained from intervening in foreign currency trading throughout 1998. An intervention, under last fall's circumstances of a plunging shekel, would have entailed buying shekels and selling dollars to artificially support the shekel, at the expense of large quantities of central-bank dollars.

The central bank also reported a record budget surplus of NIS 10.9 billion in 1998, in line with early estimates. The surplus, the bank's first in four years, is attributed mainly to the shekel's 18 percent *depreciation last year against the* dollar and more than 20% slide against the basket of five major foreign currencies against which its trading limits are adjusted.

The central bank invests its foreign currency reserves in relatively short-term, tradable assets, so as to ensure a reasonable level of liquidity while avoiding sharp fluctuations in its investment portfolio. The central bank's foreign-currency portfolio reflects a ratio equivalent to the shares of the various currencies in Israel's foreign trade.

Regulators approve Olivetti's $58 billion Telecom bid

By GREGORY VISCUSI

ROME (Bloomberg) – Italian regulators said Olivetti SpA's renewed $58 billion bid for Telecom Italia SpA can go ahead, hampering efforts by Italy's No. 1 phone company to repel the hostile takeover offer. They had rejected an earlier bid by Olivetti saying it provided insufficient details.

The unexpected approval by regulator Consob makes it more difficult for Telecom Italia to buy the 40 percent of its mobile phone unit, Telecom Italia Mobile SpA, that it does not already own, a move Telecom wants to take to make itself a more expensive target for Olivetti, which is one-eighth its size.

Under new corporate governance laws passed in July, firms subject to takeovers are precluded from adopting "poison *pill*" *maneuvers* meant to upset bids. Only a favorable vote from more than 30% of the firm's owners at a shareholders meeting can decide otherwise.

"It will be very *hard* for Telecom Italia to get the support of the 30% of shareholders that it needs to be able to take these defensive moves," said Mirco Bertelini, of Gestiveneto in Verona.

The decision came as a surprise to Telecom Italia, which is considering an appeal of the Consob ruling, advisers to the company said. By hampering its plans to integrate TIM, the company must now wage a campaign to convince investors of its own industrial plan and persuade them that Olivetti's offer is too low and will saddle the company with too much debt.

That strategy is considered more likely than one of seeking a "white knight" bidder among possible foreign telecommunications partners, such as Spain's Telefonica SA, or allowing Olivetti to buy a stake in Telecom Italia and giving it a position on the board, the advisers said.

Telecom officials declined to comment on the decision.

Olivetti chief executive Roberto Colaninno said in a statement that "we are satisfied with the opinion expressed by the commission." He said Olivetti will shortly present its plans for how to increase the value of Telecom Italia.

Consob made the decision after earlier in the week rejecting Olivetti's first bid for the former state telephone monopoly because it lacked information. Olivetti *resubmitted the bid with some* changes Thursday. It didn't raise the price.

In Europe's largest offer ever, Olivetti is bidding 10 euros a share in cash, stock, and bonds. Telecom Italia shares fell 1.5% to 9.59 euros on Friday.

TIM shares fell 10 cents to 6.16 euros Friday, but still finished the week up 6%. Olivetti Friday rose 6 cents to 2.80. Analysts said they expected Olivetti to rise today and the two Telecom Italia stocks to fall.

Consob said Saturday that Olivetti's revised bid, unlike the first one submitted Monday, wasn't conditional on events that had yet to take place. Olivetti said in its initial bid that the offer depended on selling its stake in cellular phone operator Omnitel Pronto Italia to Germany's Mannesmann AG. A contract for that sale was signed Wednesday.

The revised bid also said it expected to begin the offer by April. The first bid gave no date.

Telecom Italia chief executive Franco Bernabe, in an interview with *Il Sole/24 Ore* Saturday, said the plan to buy TIM is not a defensive action, but a move designed to *increase profitability by cutting* costs. He said by absorbing TIM, Telecom Italia could also offer integrated fixed-line and cellular phone services to customers.

His comments are seen as a reflection of a strategy to build investor support for his industrial plan for the company, which includes reducing costs, jettisoning businesses such as cables and software, and selling its media interests.

Bernabe must now build support for his measures from Telecom's widely spread shareholders, no small task in a country without mail *proxy voting.* A core group of shareholders holds just 7% of the shares with the rest held by institutions and individuals in Italy and abroad.

An adviser to Telecom estimates 60% of the shares are held by overseas investors, mostly British and US funds, who may be more comfortable with Bernabe, who won the respect of investors for previously turning around oil company Eni SpA, than with Olivetti, which in 1998 made a profit for the first time since 1990. Many equity funds are also barred from holding bonds, *which Olivetti is offering as part of* its bid.

"Maybe Bernabe can win the support of institutional investors, in which case reaching 30% won't be that difficult," said Paola Toschi, an analyst at AFV-Milla.

Bernabe would in any case have needed the support of shareholders to merge TIM and Telecom, but under Italy's rules, if the company weren't the target of a bid, he would only need a majority of those present at a shareholders meeting.

Bernabe won the support of his board Friday to look into ways of *merging Telecom and TIM.* Because Olivetti's offer had already been submitted, Consob's retroactive ruling means Telecom was already the target of a bid and therefore subject to the new takeover regulations.

Italy's former phone monopoly Thursday said Olivetti's bid was riddled with "formal and substantial shortcomings," in particular its lack of detail on how the bid's loan financing will affect Telecom Italia's debt and development prospects.

Olivetti is financing most of its *offer through debt, which would be* repaid by stripping Telecom Italia of some assets, such as part of TIM. The bid was made through Olivetti's Tecnost SpA unit, which makes lottery betting machines.

With reporting by Eric Sylvers in Milan.

PRIME פריים
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 25.2.99
Purchase Price: 124.14
Redemption Price: 122.55
MUTUAL FUNDS LEUMI Pia

TARGET טרגט (מטרה)
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 25.2.99
Purchase Price: 127.84
Redemption Price: 126.03
MUTUAL FUNDS LEUMI Pia

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TEL AVIV 100 LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	537	0
Africa Israel 0 1	19100	-6.8
Africa Israel 1	176400	-1.7
Agis	2000	1.1
Al Paper Mills	15350	-0.5
Al-Rov	1710	0
Azorim	3080	-2.5
Azorim Prop.	730	-1.7
Bank Leumi 0.1	601	-0.3
Baran	3270	0
Bayside 1	45500	-1.7
Bayside 5	210000	0
Bezeq	1419	0.4
Blue Square	5240	0.4
Bromine	2640	-4
Canier	2080	0
Clal Electronics	62600	-0.6
Clal Industries	1833	-1.4
Clal Insurance	3450	-1.4
Clal Israel 1	3640	-0.2
Dan Hotels	635	0.6
Dankner	2010	0
Darban	560	0
Dead Sea Works 0.1	935	-0.8
Delek 0.1	10680	-3.8
Delek Car	825	0.5
Delta 1	3790	-1.5
Development Mori	18000	1.1
Discount Bank	353	-0.8
Discount Inv	12410	-1
Elbit 0.003	1518	-3.3
Elbit imaging	4320	-13
Elbit system	5470	-0.7
Elco Holdings	2100	-0.5
Elco Industries	3450	1.5
Electra	17880	0.4
Electra App	2940	-1.3
Elite Ind. 1	2880	-0.7
Elite Ind. 5	14000	-0.7
Elron 0.003	6980	-0.4
FIBI 5	2850	1.4
First Int'l 1	413	-3.1
First Int'l 5	2030	-0.5
First Int'l Mort	31600	1
Formula	10060	-4
General Bank	8700	-0.5
Ginnai Hacarmel	480	-1.2
Hadamm Prop.	7690	0
Hapoalim 0.1	788	0.5
Harel Mishmar 1	32901	-0.3
Harel Mishmar 5	15900	-0.3
Home Center	3780	2.2
I.D.E. Dev.	9070	-0.3
I.D.B. Holdings	8710	-0.2
IDC	2060	-1.9
Ind Bldgs	502	0.4
Israel Chemicals	409	-0.7
Israel Corp. 1	37200	1.6
Isrotel	810	0
Jacora	930	-0.6
JCT	28.5	-2.1
JEC	1525	0
Kitan	401	-0.2
Knafaim	4200	2.4
Koor	38400	-1.5
Leumi Insurance	225	0
Leumi Mortgage	66200	0
Ma'anv	3180	0
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	851	-0.8
Matmari	502	0
Matsh	4900	-0.8
Mehadrin	11770	1.5
Mel Eden	1540	0
Melissaron	1050	2.4
Menorah Ins. 1	1629	0
Methkan	63000	0
Mivtach Shamir	2270	-2.2
Mizrahi	732	0.5
NATSVA REGULAR	1475	1.7
Nice Systems	11860	-2
Ormat Industries	459	-0.2
Osem Industries	1797	-0.3
Petrochemicals	2070	-1.4
Phoenix Ins. 1	790	0.5
Plasson	4570	-0.4
Poalim Inv	11880	-0.8
Pork oi Sale	3050	-5.3
Prop & Bldg	31800	0
Salt Industries	1778	-0.7
Shikun u'Binui	263	-0.8
Solel Bone	3630	-0.8
Supersol	1030	0.4
Taasm	1818	-1.7
Tambour	525	5
Tefahot	185000	0.2
Tempo	1550	-1.2
Teva	16410	-5.6
Urope Israel	3100	7.3
Wire and Cables	1153	0.9
Ytong Industries	900	0

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Alyac	1.6	0
Aloufi	42.8	0
Ace-Spade	67.3	0
Ackerstein Bond B	176.2	-3.9
Ackerstein Ind.	405	0
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1470	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	8000	0
Adanim	297400	0
Adler	120	0
Adsha	120	0
Adumim	310	0
Afreca Hotels Bond B	97.6	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	70	-1.4
Afreca Israel Hotels Bond A	141.6	0
Afsek Ind	974	0
Ags Warrant 4	225	0
Agish Int'l	315	3.3
Agri Investments	430	0
Al-Ben	149.9	0
Al-Ben Bond A	126	1.4
Alhe c2	95.8	0
Alhe w6	114	0
Alliance	561	0
Alon	279	0
Alony-Hetz	479	0.6
Alony-Hetz Bond A	220	0
Alrod	206	3
Alrov Bond D	82.2	0
Alrov Warramt 5	70	0
Alumit	256	0
Alumot	2100	0
Amagar	209	0
Amatec	127	0
Amanpil Warrant 1	80	0
Ammat	710	0
Ampa Investments	9230	0
Analyst EMS	600	-0.6
Angel Trade	57.5	0
Angel Trade Bond A	161	0
Angel Trade Bond B	121.9	1.6
Angel Trade Bond C	85	3.6
Apcon	657	-4.6
Apcon warrant 1	170	0
Applecom	2310	0
Aracel Warrant 2	304	0
Arad	1250	0
Arad Towels	1300	0
Arazim	140	0
Argaman	127	0
Arieden	1375	0
Arpal	135	0
Aryt	98.9	5.9
Ashkelon Plywood	514	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	161	1.3
Ashtad	486	0
Ashtad Bond A	162.5	0.3
Ashot	347	0
Ashot Bond A	182	0
Ashpara	80.6	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	180.2	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	168.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	550	0
Ashtrom Prop.	170.1	0
Astrom P Bond 1	94	0
Astrom p warrant a	22	0
Astrum Bond C	105.8	0
Astrum Warrant 2	13.4	4.7
Atiton	76	-5
Atmor	1062	0.9
ATX	172	0
Atzmori	180	0
Aura	4570	-1.7
Avarot	280	0
Avarot Bond A	165	0
Averbuch Formica	600	0
Avw	400	0
Avw Bond 1	159.9	0
Avw Bond 2	91	0.6
Avner	4.7	0
Avrot Bond 2	86	0
Avrot Warrant 2	30	10
Ayalon	880	0
Azorush	423	-4.7
Azorim Properties Bond 3	163.1	0
Azorim Warrant 13	394	-0.3
Azorim Warrant 5	103	-0.2
Azorim Warrant A	220	0
Azorim Warrant B	550	10
Badash Bond 1	25.1	0
Bartil	289	0
Batentex 1	143.5	0
Batentex Bond A	138	1.5
Batron	3660	0
Bama'asaf	950	0
Bama'asaf Bond A	149.7	0
Bat	333	0
Bat Bond A	137	0
Barad	239	0
Baranowitz	602	0
Barkan	640	3.4
Barsol	109	0
Barzel	220	0
Baruael Moshe	163.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	93.4	-1
BaySide Warrant D	1560	0
Bet Shemesh	1569	-1.3
Belmon	400	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	185	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	83	-2.4
Ben Yakar Gal	4300	0
Berman	150	0
Bezek Bond 3	140.4	1
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	402	2.3
Bilu	2200	0
Bilu Bond A	198	0
Binar	260	0
Bin	282	0
Bokos Bond B	85.9	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
bokos gad warrant 1	30.5	0
Bonat Tichon	499	0
Bonjour	589	0
Boulous Brothers	130.9	0
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	268	0
Boulous GD	292	0
Boulous GD Bond A	140	0
Brand	89	0
Brill	37	0
Brok Sale	14.3	0
Brosh	102	0
Building Bank	1300	3.4
Building Resou.	3890	-5.1
C Holdings	290	7.7
C Holdings Bond 5	85	0
Caesarea 1	6580	0
Capsal	958	-0.3
Capital Bond A	124	2.5
Capstex	275	0
Cargal	585	4.7
Carmel	495	7.6
Carmel	402	0
Castro	495	0
Catalena 1	437	0
CDI	198	4.8
Cementacel Bond A	50.4	0
Cementcal	230	-0.4
Centre	152	0
Centre Bond 1	141.2	0
Cham	398	1.3
Chayun Computers	161	0
Chemipel	450	0
Chem-Nir	315	0
CI Systems	712	0
Cidan	398	-3.5
Clal Computers	10550	-2.2
Clal Retail	49700	0
Cohen Beni	151	0
Cohen Dex	193	0
Cohen MM	139	0
Cold Storage 1	2250	-3.4
Compi	1726	0
Compi Warrant 1	11.7	0
Compuflis	207	8.9
Comtech	420	0
Comrans	809	0
Contel	1249	5.4
Contractors	21800	0
Coral Beach	786	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	3310	9.6
Cyclone Bond 2	173.6	0
Dafron	1391	0
Dalin	1	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	770	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	168.2	0
Danbar 1	3540	4.7
Danbar 5	8500	-2.1
Danbar Bond A	294	0
Danbar Resources	4380	0
Danbar Resources Bond B	177	0.6
Danbar Tech.	3750	0
Danbar Technologies Bond A	168.9	0
Danel	90	0
Danel Bond A	91	0
Danel Personnel	1900	0
Danel Warrant 2	151	0
Dankner Bond 1	218	0
Dankner Bond 2	147	0
Dankner Bond 3	99	0
Dankner Warrant C	360	0
Danty	406	1.5
Darad	108.4	0
DARBAN BOND 2	102	0
Darban Bond A	171.1	0
Darban Warrant 3	52	0
Darea	154.6	0
Darlon	299	0
Dash investment	699	9.2
Data	543	0
Decision Systems	326	-1.5
Degem Systems	424	2.2
Delek Drillings	14.2	0
Delek Oil	1400	0
Destiny	1062	0
Digel	1285	5.9
Derom	1400	0
Dolev	368	2.8
Dolev Bond A	145.4	0
Dolev warrant 1	19.3	0
Domicar	461	0
Domicar Bond	163.5	0.2
Dor Berger	270	0
Dor Chm	320	0
Dor Energy	1237	0
Dore wi	41.6	0
Doresa	50.6	0
Dort c1	100	0
Dori Engineering	472	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	147.4	2
Dowat Bond A	147.5	0
Dowat Shrem	1420	-2
DSL	849	0
Dubek M	2.9	0
Dubek S	3	0
Dumiz	245	6.5
DYG Industries	430	0
E & M Computing	1300	0
Edgar Alban	49.6	0
Edgar Industries	205	7.3
Edgar Inv. Bond C	88.8	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	16.8	-6.1
Elfar Bond A	98	0
Elnt	139.3	0
Elsam	390	0
Elronran	3820	3
El Bad	2280	4.1
El Canit	395	0
El Canit Bond 1	161.4	-0.5
Elad	468	0
Elad Bond A	178	0
Elad Bond B	150.3	0
Elad c3	75	0
Elad w5	15	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	134	-1.1
Eldan Tech.	175	0
Electronics Line	699	0
Elgar	6700	-4.3
Elitech Ind.	1070	-4.2
Elkarn	274	0
Elis	275	0
Elia Bond A	144	0
Elran	4920	-1.6
Emek	197.9	0
Emyle	992	0
Engel Const.	489	-7.7
ESE	1509	4.1
Eshed Robotech	193.5	0
Even	530	10
Evrois Warrant 1	1200	0.8
Excelance	1470	-0.1
Export Inv	799	0
Extra	124	0
Feldmen	53.1	0
Feldman Bond A	157.5	0
Feldman Ind.	250	0
Feuchtwanger 1	7250	0.7
Feuchtwanger 5	31600	-0.9
Fidelity	2830	0
Five J Jewelers	371	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	138	0.7
Formica Source	100	0
Frutzarom	377	0
Gahelet	11100	0
Galcom	64.2	-1.2
Galran	1350	0
Gama	139	0
Gametronic	599	0
Gambit	2880	-2
Gan ShmoelBond A	111	0
Gan ShmoelWarrant 3	348	-3.3
Gan Shmuel	1220	-4.8
Ganei Hadar	450	-5
Gap Development	125	0
Gap Holdings	182	0
Gap Warrant 2	1	0
Gazit	700	0
Gazit Bond C	133.5	0.6
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	86.8	-0.8
Gibor Sabinai	92	0
Gibor Sport	681	0
Gibor Warrant 2	92	0
Gilboa	54	0
Gilo	180	0
Gilsek	1836	-3.4
Givot Olam Oil	103.6	-4.9
Glob Rit	858	0.1
Golan	523	7
Gold	375	0
Golden House	512	0
Golex	217	0
Granot Bond	155.2	-0.2
Granot Bond 2	148.1	0
Green Software	200	37
Greenberg	1599	0
H. Electronics	49.2	0
H. Mer	831	0
Habas	3480	0
Habas Bond 1	134.5	0.4
Hadar 1	30000	0
Hadar 5	104000	0
Hadav Ins. 1	630	0
Hadar Ins. 5	2550	0
Hadarim Bond1	117.2	0.1
Hadarim Warrant1	551	-0.3
Hagal	439	0
Hagai Bond B	165.7	0.4
Ham-Lel	1250	-2.3
Hamakor	159.3	0
Hanal	46	-3.4
Hasen Esh	887	0
Hason	340	0
Hatchol 1	156	0
Hatchol Bond A	150.1	0
Hayal	1110	0
Hayal Bond2	90.2	-9.8
Hayal Warrant 1	76.5	0
Hed Arz Music	245	-0.8
Hiron 1	10150	0
Hiron 5	34000	0
HL Service Bond 2	191.7	0
HL Service Bond 3	154.2	0.1
HL Services	2590	0
Hod	105	0
Hot	920	0
Hofit	157.5	1.6
Hydrotec	115	0
IES Industries	251	4.8
IES Warrant 1	25.5	0
Ilan Gal	118	0
Ilan Gal Bond A	153.7	0
ILDC Bond 6	270	0
ILDC Hotels	320	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	89	0
ILDC Insurance	368	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	142	0.4
Imco	882	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	18.5	0
Ind Bldgs Rt	2.3	0
Ind.Dev.Bank C	341	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3390	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3400	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1394	0
Independence Mort	44600	2.5
Interconvers	1050	0
Intergamma 1	2400	-3.6
Intergamma 5	11700	0

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Inventech	600	0
Iscal	1089	0
Ispro	5590	0
Isracolor	477	0
Israel Corp. 5	158000	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	146.4	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	190	0
Israkom	984	0
Israkom Bond C	86.5	0
Ispromo	2.6	4
Isras 1	6740	0
Israt 5	29700	0
ISTA LINES	2290	0
Itay	2300	0
Itay Bond 1	79.1	-1.1
Itay Warrant 1	360	0
Jafora Bond A	189	0
Jayasur	181	9.7
Jayasur Bond A	107.7	0
JEC Bond B	96.3	0
Jerusalem Mort	188.1	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 18	173	0
Jeurasse	30.2	0
JOEL	526	-0.4
JOEL Bond 1A	244	0
JOEL Bond 2	132	0.4
JOEL Bond A	244	0
JOEL Warrant 3	2.8	0
Kadimara	119	0
Kadouri	729	0
kafrica bond b	91.8	0
kafrica warrant 1	64	0
Katrit	1120	0
Kellcalit Bond A	94.4	0.1
Kellcalit warrant 2	138	-1.4
Kamour	343	0
Kamour Bond G	136	0
Kamagal	923	0
Kamel Warrant G	1	0
Kanilcol	30	0
Kanilcol Bond A	42.7	0
Kardan 1	500	-3.8
Kardan 5	2810	4
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	80.5	0
Kedem Chemicals	2700	0
Kenitex	516	0
Kesher	838	0
Kesher Bond A	157.1	0.7
Ketter	598	0
Kinol	16.9	0
Kinol Bond A	39	0
King	239	0
Kinneret	189	0
Kisch Kinur	183	0
Kishrei Taufa	1132	0
Kitsil	220	0
Kitsil Bond A	176	0.6
Kitsil Bond A	80	0
Klil Ind. 5	8650	0.8
Koor Bond 5	147.5	0
Kopel	333	0
Kopel Bond 1	251	0
La Nationale Bond A	151.5	0
La Nationale Pref	127	0
Lachish	2760	0
Lamont	820	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	65.2	0
Lasarin	430	0
Lavitev	450	0
Lazrack Bldg	448	0
Lazrack Comm Ctrs	136.6	0
Lazrack Commercial Centres Bond	139.5	0
Lazrack Ind Bldgs	310	0
Lazrack Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	146.5	0
Leader	1020	0
Lego	437	0
Leumi Warrant 5	44.8	-2.4
Levanthal	660	0
Levi	460	0
Levi Bond A	145.8	0
Levi Bond B	92.2	0
Levi Warrant 2	28	0
Levinstein Bond A	328	0
Levinstein Warrant 2	4450	0
Levinstein	3210	0
Liber	334	0
Lidan	1350	-3.6
Litshir 1	170	1.6
Litshir 5	520	0
Ligad	253	0
Ligad Bond 1	163	0
Lighterage 1	878	3.1
LIMS	245	0
Lipman	3250	-0.9
Lipski	4490	2.5
Lipski Bond A	182.5	0
Liraz	2850	-2.7
Liraz Bond A	145.8	0
Lodan	134	11.7
Lodzia 1	1258	0
Lodzia 4	4650	0
Luhot Galil	23	0
Luhot Galil Bond 1	139.4	0
Lumir	3100	0
Ma'anv Bond A	142.1	0.8
Maabarot	984	2.9
Macpell	469	-1.9
Macpell Bond A	144	0.7
Macpell Bond B	133	0
Macpell Bond C	75.2	-0.1
Macpell Warrant 3	22	8.4
Maflt	400	0.8
Magam	165	6.5
Magam Bond A	191	0
Magam Bond B	133.1	0
Magav	130	0
Magma	225	0
Magor 1	1840	-0.3
Magor 5	7400	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	85.3	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	372	0
Malal	267	2.7
Malk	76.5	0
Malta	500	0
Man	58	0
Man Bond A	249	0
Mantur	30.5	0
Marathon	93	0
Marathon Insured	104.9	-1.5
Mazio Lazrack Constr. Bond 1	187.5	5.1
Mario Lazrack Constr. Bond 2	161.2	0
Maritime Bank	1248	-2.3
Maritime Bank Bond B	148.1	-0.6
Mashav	691	-2.8
Mashtit	540	0
Mashov	485	-1.2
Mashov	454	-7.2
Matam	1522	0
Matav Warrant 1	1270	-0.5
Maxima 1	375	0
Maxima 5	1420	0
Maxpak	770	0
Med. Hotels	48	0
Medtechnica	545	-0.9
Medtechnica Bond A	143.5	0
Medtechnica Bond B	83.5	0
Medtechnica Warrant 2	33	0
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	1950	0
Meir Ezra	1341	-7.5
Melel	260	0
Melisaaron Bond B	86.5	1.6
Melisaaron Warrant 3	30	0
Mendelson	291	0
Menolim	24	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6900	0
Mercazit	838	1.3
Merhav	133.2	-1.3
Meytavi	104	0
Middle East Tube	180	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	114.5	-0.4
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	1	0
Millmor Bond A	138	0
Millomar Bond B	75	-0.9
Millomar Warrant 2	61	0
Milomor	1457	0
Mimsar	132.9	0
Mint Unit	857	0
Minter	13479	4.8
Minuja	165	0
Minage Bond A	137	0
Miromit	60	0
Mishnasi	19	0
Mishnasi Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	155.5	0
Mishor Hahof	355	0
Mitsram	126	0
Mivtach Shamir	1141	-4.8
Mizrahi Inv.	9940	0
Mizrahi warrant 2	55.5	-4.3
MM Engineering	101	0
MM Engineering Bond A	64.5	-9.9
Modgal	780	4
Modiin	1	0
Moffet	193.7	1.3
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	220	0
Molett	852	0
More Plastic Ind.	352	0
Moshkowitz	128	0
MTI Computers	210	-8.7
Mul-T-Lock	830	-4.8
Mula Senfer	223	0
Nachshon Fund	36	7.8
Naphtha	21.5	-4
Naphtha Oil Exp.	27	0
Natbour	580	0
NATSVA BOND A	108	0
Navigator	222	0
Navigator Property	897	-0.9
Nechushtan Bond B	70	0
Nechushtan Prop.	155.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	145	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	17.9	0
Negev Ceramics	186.3	0
Nehushtan 1	470	0
Nehushtan 5	2800	0
Neot Aviv	7500	0
Nessua	427	0
Neve Arbel	185	0
Nevlim Hotels	354	0
Nevot	789	-2.5
Nia	268	0
Nilluy	700	0
Nisco	2050	1
Nissan	281	0
NMC	234	0
Noga	1440	-8.4
Noga Insurans	78.3	0.4
Nordan	13.4	0
Nordan Tech.	500	0
Norlolk	596	0
Norlolk Bond A	151	0
Nur	53	0
NYP	1210	0
Oceana	272	0
Oef	6100	0.1
Oef Bond A	194	0
Oef Bond C	92.3	-0.2
Oef Warrant 2	500	0
Octova	495	0
Ofek	219	0
Ofer Bro	6500	-3
Ofis	950	0
Ogden	81	0
Ohalav	588	0
Oil Fields	9.4	0
Ole-Dok	231	2.7

	LAST	CHANGE*
Onmi	253	0
Ormatech	210	0
Ophir	299	0
Ophir Tours	440	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	143	0
Orasys	2980	3.2
Orazit	500	0
Orazit Bond A	172.4	0
Orbit	750	-3.2
Orda	2500	2.5
Orda Bond 1	161	0
Orew	519	2.7
Orisil	102	-8.8
Orlito	313	0
Orlito Bond A	92.8	1.3
Orlita Warrant 2	48	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	134.4	0.4
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	1	0
Ortal	385	0
Otzar Hashilton	23000	0
Oz	165	9.3
Oz stide	368	0
Packer Sigal	5300	-2.9
Paltough	836	-1.2
PAM	355	0
Pama	805	0
Parmus	1799	0
Pan Dor	250	0
Pardes	600	0
Pardes Bond A	42	0
Passport	1447	0
Paz Chem	520	0
PCB	1200	0.2
Pclan Investment	27.5	0
Pereg	123	0
Perlcidas	1045	-2.8
Phoenix Ins. 5	3220	0
Pica Fleet	300	0
Pilat	85	2.2
Pleros	130	0
Pleros Bond A	148	0
Pilot	401	0
Plasson bond a	102	0
Plasson warrant 1	401	1.3
Plasto Sac	555	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	91	1.1
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	80	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	94.4	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	1990	2.8
Poalim Investments Bond A	139	4.5
Polak	193	-3.5
Polgat A	414	1.5
Polgat B 4	1696	2.6
Polygon	2000	0
Perez	221	0
Port	115	0
Poseidon	89.5	0
PH Haemek	21	0
PH Haemek Bond A	20	0
Pritzker	170.2	0
Pritzker Bond A	162.5	0
Profit	440	0
Profit Bond A	139	0.6
Python	498	0
Quality Cap Mkts	510	8.1
Rabinex	285	-1.3
Ram Zur	58.5	0
Ramgor 1	170	0
Ramgor 4	455	0
Rapak	2020	-0.5
Rapak Bond A	160.2	0.1
Rassco	1415	0.4
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	178	0
Rawad	137	0
RDC	899	0
RDC Bond A	150.5	0
Red Sea Hotels	740	1.2
Regency	119	0
Regency Bond 1	127	0
Regent Bond A	169	2.6
Relish	390	0
Reshet	55	0
Reshet Bond B	119	0
Rimoni	799	2.4
Rogosin	1775	0
Rogozin Bond A	84.1	0
Rogozin Warrant B	430	22.9
Romtech	430	0
Rosebud	85.9	0
Rosental	102.5	0
Rotem	246	0
Rotshtein	118.8	-1
Rotshtein Bond A	140	0
RSL	540	0
Sadot Nop Bond A	102.5	0
Sagie Prop. Bond 1	23.1	0
Sahar Bond a	95.2	0.2
Sahar Dev.	2790	0
Saher Securities	560	0
Saher Warrant 1	390	0
Sanlecol	336	0
Sano 1	2850	0
Sano 5	14600	0
Scope	1170	0
Scope Bond A	94	0
Scope Warrant 2	77	-10.5
Sea Trade	525	0
Secom	274	-3.8
Securitas	900	0
Securitas Bond A	187.7	-0
Sefen	1185	-0
Sezolon	335	0
Shalev	329	0
Shamir	578	0
Shefayim	900	0
Shel	209	0
Shekel	220	0
Shekel Bond A	154.5	0
Shekem	86.5	0.2
Shekem Bond 1	153.3	0.3
Shelag	115	-5
Shem Tov	305	0
Shemen	12150	0
Shiador	58.2	0
Shlomo Angel	5750	0
Shmi c2	86.7	0
Shmi w2	182	0
Shmira	721	1.4
Shmira Bond A	158.5	0
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The State of Israel
Ministry of Finance
Capital Markets, Insurance and Savings Division
Tender SH–1–1999

The State of Israel hereby requests proposals for the establishment and operation of a data bank for the Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance sector in Israel, pursuant to the Automobile Insurance Law (Insurance under Conditions of Controlled Competition and Arrangements for a Transition Period), 5757–1997.

Reports produced by the data bank will permit fair competition in the sector while preserving the stability of insurers, increasing the effectiveness of regulation and enhancing the evaluation of insurance risks.

The full and binding terms and requirements appear in Tender SH–1–1999.

A. Vendors who meet the following conditions may apply:
1. Those with substantial experience in the field of this tender.
2. Those who are independent of entities operating in the insurance industry in Israel, as set forth in Section 0.6.4 of the tender.

B. Basic requirements of the vendor
1. A bank guarantee for NIS 500,000; valid for 150 days.
2. Confirmation of bookkeeping and records in accordance with the Law for Transactions of Public Bodies (Enforcement of Bookkeeping), 5736–1976.
3. Confirmation by an auditor or lawyer as to registration of the corporation and the rights of its authorized signatories.
4. Undertaking of the vendor in connection with his rights in the proposed system.
5. Most recent three audited annual financial statements.
6. Certificate of licensed business for VAT purposes.
7. Registration of corporation in Israel after winning the tender competition.
8. Photocopy of receipt in evidence of purchase of tender specifications.
9. Participation in the vendors' forum.

In addition, all undertakings and approvals as set forth in the documents of the tender.

C. Vendor Prerequisites
The conditions stated in paragraphs A and B above are prerequisites for the making of a tender offer.

D. Period of Commitment
The period of commitment between the State of Israel and the winning vendor will be three years. The period will begin after an initial period in which the vendor will set up the data bank system, and may be extended to additional periods of up to a total of five years subject to all laws and regulations.

E. How to acquire the documents of the tender
1. The tender (without its annexes) can be read and/or copied from the Internet site, http:\\www.mof.gov.il
2. Purchase of the annexes to the tender by non-refundable payment of NIS 2,500. Payment should be made to the Ministry of Finance account no. 0-24876-3 at the Postal Bank, by means of a form obtainable there.
3. The documents of the tender can be obtained from Ms. Adiel Cohen at the Ministry of Finance, Capital Markets, Insurance and Savings Division, 1 Kaplan Street, Room 813, Jerusalem, Monday–Thursday 9 9 a.m.–4 p.m., until March 21, 1999.
4. The following details will be provided upon purchase of the documents: the full name of the contact person representing the vendor, the name of the bidding vendor, the bidding vendor's full address, telephone and fax number. These details are required for sending notices concerning the tender, if necessary.

F. Vendor's forum
A vendor's forum will take place on March 22, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Ministry of Finance building, 1 Kaplan Street, Jerusalem.
Participation in the forum is mandatory.
The Ministry will respond to vendors' questions at the forum.
The information and comments provided during the forum may lead to a change in the terms of the tender.

G. Date for submitting bids
Bids should be placed in the box in the Records Department, Division of the Accountant General, Ministry of Finance, 1 Kaplan Street, Fifth Floor, Room 523, Jerusalem, no later than May 9, 1999 at 12:00 noon.

H. Selection of the winning vendor
Selection of the winning vendor will be made by the Ministry of Finance according to quality and cost considerations.
The Ministry does not commit to accept the lowest bid or any bid, whether in its entirety or parts thereof.

I. Manner of commitment
The commitment with the vendor shall commence after signing the contract between the Government and the vendor. The contract sets out the terms, agreements and the provisions of the commitment and the submission of the bank guarantee pursuant to the terms of the tender.

the book department
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Krajicek dedicates win to Oosting

LONDON (Reuters) – Richard Krajicek served 30 aces to overpower local hero Greg Rusedski 7-6 6-7 7-5 in the London Indoor final yesterday and then dedicated the title to a tennis friend who died this week.

Krajicek attended the funeral of Dutch doubles specialist Menno Oosting on Saturday before flying back to London to beat Thomas Johansson in the semfinal. Oosting died in a car crash on the way back from a tournament.

"I want to dedicate this title to Menno Oosting. His funeral yesterday was really emotional and I wish his wife all the strength she needs to get through this tough time," a visibly emotional Krajicek told the crowd after receving the trophy.

"I hope he is in a good place."

On a fast court, the Dutch fourth seed slotted into the serving groove that won him Wimbledon in 1996 and comfortably took the battle between two of the hardest hitters in the men's game. He lost only two service games during the tournament.

Third seed Rusedski, bidding to become the first Briton to win a men's title in London for 24 years, served faster than his opponent and took the only set off Krajicek this week.

But he served just 10 aces and was more fragile on the big points. He nearly saved himself from defeat with a display of gamesmanship late in the game, asking a ballgirl to play against Krajicek after the Dutchman served an ace.

The change of mood unsettled Krajicek who lost the next three points, allowing Rusedski to break back to 4-4.



Richard Krajicek returns a backhand to Greg Rusedski during the London indoor final yesterday. (Reuters)

But a double fault on break point in the 11th game saw justice done and Krajicek won on his second match point.

"I know the next time Greg is serving to me I know what I will do – I'll let a ballgirl hit a couple of balls," Krajicek said wryly.

For long periods of the final it was nothing more than a serving competition and the first rally of more than five strokes did not come until the ninth game.

Rusedski had the better of the first set, earning a break point in his opponent's opening service game, but he failed to capitalise and it was the Dutch fourth seed who took it with a simple smash on his second set point in the tiebreak.

The second set was a mirror image of the first with more hard serving, intermingled with the occasional volley behind a serve, and Krajicek this time wasting the only break point in his opponent's opening service game.

Krajicek lost the tiebreak despite pulling himself 5-4 ahead with two aces. He could do little to prevent Rusedski going 6-5 up but then served his fifth double fault of the match to allow the Briton to level at 1-1.

Krajicek's winner's cheque of $125,000 hung on the third game of the final set when he at last found the measure of Rusedski's serve for a whole game.

Two excellent returns and a couple of weak volleys by the Briton gave him three break points and on the third, Krajicek won the game with a firmly-struck backhand cross court.

Serena Williams clinches first title in Paris

PARIS (Reuters) – American teenager Serena Williams clinched her first WTA Tour title when she overcame France's Amelie Mauresmo 6-2 3-6 7-6 in the women's Paris Open final yesterday.

The 17-year-old Williams produced her best tennis to beat a tired-looking Mauresmo in a two-hour battle between two of the most powerful baseliners on the women's circuit.

"Mauresmo played very well but she was a little bit nervous," the tall American said. "Mauresmo can hit the ball very hard but she can't hit it harder than I do. I'm used to playing this way and I like it."

The French player looked to be suffering from her tough matches against Swiss world No. 1 Martina Hingis and Belgium's Dominique Van Roost.

"My legs didn't go too well in the tie-break," Mauresmo said. "I had the guts but Serena produced brilliant tennis today. I tried everything but she was stronger than me even if it was very close."

Williams, who dominated most of the game except for the second set, wrapped up the tie-break 7-4 when Mauresmo hit a backhand wide on the first match point.

"She had the advantage of playing in front of her home crowd but it didn't bother me," Williams said.

The unseeded American, who was playing in her first final, broke Mauresmo's serve to lead 4-1 before taking the first set 6-2 in half an hour.

Sixth-seed Mauresmo, who reached the Australian Open final last month, reacted swiftly and took the second set after the American double-faulted with a break point against her in the ninth game.

In the deciding set, both had their chances but neither was able to take command until the tie-break when Williams proved the stronger.

Williams, whose older sister Venus was playing in the final of the IGA Superthrift Classic tournament in Oklahoma City later yesterday, said she is hungry for more Tour wins.

"Winning a tournament such as the Paris Open is a good thing," she said. "But my dreams are now of Wimbledon and the US Open."

NBA box scores

Houston 25 13 33 15–86
Vancouver 15 19 19 21–74
HOUSTON (86) Pippen 7-17 2-2 18, Harrington 5-12 2-2 12, Olajuwon 8-16 2-4 18, Dickerson 3-6 0-0 7, Price 2-5 0-0 6, Mobley 4-8 2-2 11, Miller 4-6 1-1 9, Drew 1-4 0-0 2, Bullard 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 35-77 9-11 86.
VANCOUVER (74) Abdur-Rahim 8-20 4-5 20, M.Smith 2-5 0-0 4, Reeves 2-9 1-3 5, Mack 1-6 0-0 3, Bibby 5-9 4-4 14, Massenburg 5-12 1-2 11, West 1-5 0-0 2, Parks 1-3 0-0 2, Wheat 2-4 0-2 4, Chilcutt 0-0 0-0 0, Lopez 4-6 1-1 9. Totals 31-79 11-17 74.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Houston 49 (Harrington 10), Vancouver 49 (Abdur-Rahim 16). Assists–Houston 17 (Pippen 5), Vancouver 11 (Reeves 4). A–19,193 (19,159).

Portland 18 27 18 19–82
Washington 24 28 13 16–81
PORTLAND (82) Grant 7-12 5-7 19, W.Williams 5-11 0-0 11, Sabonis 7-12 1-1 15, J.Jackson 6-14 0-0 13, Stoudamire 3-12 0-0 6, R.Wallace 1-7 7-9 9, Augmon 3-5 0-0 6, Anthony 1-2 1-3 3, Cato 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-75 14-20 82.
WASHINGTON (81) Howard 10-19 5-7 25, R.Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 2-4 2-2 6, Richmond 4-10 5-5 13, Strickland 5-15 0-0 10, Thorpe 6-12 2-3 14, Whitney 2-2 3-3 7, Chasney 1-4 0-0 2, Murray 0-0 0-0 0, B.Wallace 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 33-71 16-19 81.
Fouled out–Thorpe. Rebounds–Portland 52 (Grant 8), Washington 38 (Thorpe 8). Assists–Portland 19 (Stoudamire 5), Washington 14 (Strickland 7). A–18,550 (20,674).

Boston 15 27 27 32–101
New Jersey 23 22 24 23–92
BOSTON (101) Pierce 8-18 4-6 21, Walker 13-24 1-4 28, Battie 1-7 1-1 3, Minor 2-7 1-2 5, Anderson 4-9 4-4 12, Barros 5-11 0-0 11, DeClercq 3-5 2-3 8, Bowen 2-5 3-5 7, Riley 0-1 1-2 1, P.Jones 2-2 1-1 5. Totals 40-89 18-25 101.
NEW JERSEY (92) Gill 1-8 3-4 5, Van Horn 9-18 4-4 22, Williams 3-11 1-2 7, Kittles 6-17 5-9 17, Murdock 4-12 2-3 11, McIlwaine 3-5 0-0 6, D.Jones 1-5 3-5 6, Gasling 5-9 0-0 10, Burrell 2-9 3-4 8. Totals 34-94 21-31 92.
Fouled out–Bowen, Gill, Murdock. Rebounds–Boston 64 (Walker 11), New Jersey 65 (Williams 14). Assists–Boston 21 (Anderson, Pierce 5), New Jersey 21 (Murdock 8). A–20,049 (20,029).

Sacramento 27 18 18 27–90
Dallas 23 26 22 26–97
SACRAMENTO (90) Webber 8-16 0-3 17, Williamson 5-9 0-2 10, Divac 8-18 4-6 20, Abdul-Wahad 2-8 2-2 6, Ja.Williams 3-12 1-2 8, Funderburke 5-6 0-0 10, Maxwell 4-9 2-2 11, Barry 1-5 4-5 6, Stojakovic 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 37-86 13-22 90.
DALLAS (97) Finley 8-22 0-0 18, Green 2-5 0-0 4, Bradley 1-4 1-4 3, Nash 2-9 0-0 4, Davis 1-4 1-2 3, Trent 14-25 1-3 29, Pack 5-15 7-9 19, Strickland 4-7 0-0 8, Je.Williams 1-2 0-0 2, Walker 3-11 0-1 6. Totals 42-105 10-19 97.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Sacramento 65 (Webber 14), Dallas 65 (Trent 16). Assists–Sacramento 17 (Ja.Williams 7), Dallas 14 (Pack 6). A–15,009 (16,042).

Charlotte 22 12 18 25–77
Chicago 24 22 22 26–94
CHARLOTTE (77) Reid 2-4 0-2 4, Person 4-7 3-4 13, Coleman 8-17 1-1 17, Wesley 3-7 6-6 13, Phills 2-10 4-5 8, Miller 3-5 4-4 10, Shackelford 0-2 0-0 0, Davis 3-6 4-4 10, C.Brown 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 26-65 22-26 77.
CHICAGO (94) Bryant 3-5 1-2 7, Kukoc 7-15 0-0 16, Lang 5-6 4-5 14, R.Brown 7-9 0-1 14, Harper 3-12 2-2 9, Barry 2-10 4-5 9, Simpkins 2-6 4-5 8, LaRue 5-5 0-0 13, Wennington 0-5 0-0 0, Benjamin 2-3 0-0 4, David 0-2 0-0 0, Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-78 15-20 94.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Charlotte 45 (Reid 9), Chicago 45 (Lang 10). Assists–Charlotte 18 (Phills, Wesley 6), Chicago 27 (Kukoc 6). A–22,814 (21,711).

Atlanta 25 18 33 27–103
L.A. Clippers 18 18 13 27–74
ATLANTA (103) Ellis 3-8 3-4 9, Long 6-9 3-4 15, Mutombo 3-8 5-5 11, Coalin 7-11 0-0 14, Blaylock 5-8 2-3 13, McLeod 4-8 4-4 12, Johnson 5-8 2-2 12, West 1-1 0-0 2, Gray 0-5 0-0 0, Crawford 4-6 2-2 11, Sheppard 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 40-74 21-24 103.
L.A. CLIPPERS (74) Murray 5-9 2-2 12, Rogers 4-8 1-2 9, Wright 5-14 2-2 12, Piatkowski 2-8 2-2 6, Douglas 1-5 0-0 2, Nesby 7-15 2-2 17, Vrankovic 1-1 0-0 2, Skinner 1-3 3-4 5, Gloss 1-3 0-0 2, Martin 2-6 0-0 5, Robinson 5-10 2-4 12. Totals 29-74 14-18 74.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Atlanta 47 (Mutombo 11), L.A. Clippers 39 (Wright 8). Assists–Atlanta 23 (Blaylock 10), L.A. Clippers 11 (Martin 4). A–11,563 (16,021).

Tendulkar hits unbeaten 124 in drawn Test

COLOMBO (Reuters) – Sachin Tendulkar stroked his 19th Test century for India as the Asian championship match against Sri Lanka ended in a draw yesterday.

India, 33 ahead on first innings, extended their overnight second innings of 59 for one to 306 for five when play ended on the fifth and final day.

Tendulkar scored an unbeaten 124 in 308 minutes, hitting 10 fours and a six, and shared a third wicket partnership of 139 with Saurav Ganguly.

Ganguly scored a sedate 78 before being stumped by Romesh Kaluwitharana when he stepped out to attack the occasional off-spin of Aravinda de Silva just before tea.

India lost captain Mohammad Azhaurddin (15) and leg-spinner Anil Kumble (10) after the interval before paceman Venkatesh Prasad, who was promoted in the order, played out time with Tendulkar.

Opener Vangipurappu Laxman was earlier out for 25 in the eighth over of the morning session when he was lbw to Eric Upushantha.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga did not take the field yesterday after injuring a hamstring, and later ruled himself unfit to face Pakistan in the third and final round-robin match of the Asian Test championship, starting in Lahore on Thursday.

De Silva was appointed to lead the side in his place but the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said a few hours later that he, too, was being replaced due to inury.

Hashan Tillekeratne will captain Sri Lanka in the Lahore Test which will decide who plays Pakistan in the championship final in Dhaka starting on March 12.

Pakistan, who beat India in Calcutta, lead the table with 17 points from one match. India have 10 points from their two games and Sri Lanka have four points from one match.

Cullinan's 246 leads SA to huge score

AUCKLAND (Reuters) – Daryll Cullinan made the third highest score by a South African, a remorseless and occasionally brilliant 246 not out, by the close of the second day's play of the first Test against New Zealand at Eden Park yesterday.

South Africa's 562 for five was the highest score against New Zealand, surpassing the 524 for eight declared at Wellington in 1952-53, an innings which included 255 not out from former captain Jackie McGlew, a score second only to Graeme Pollock's 274 against Australia in 1970.

Cullinan passed 150 for the third time in 46 Tests and then topped his previous best of 168 scored against the West Indies in Cape Town two matches ago.

He shared stands of 183 with Gary Kirsten, 74 with Hansie Cronje, 141 with Jonty Rhodes and an unbroken 67 with Shaun Pollock.

The home side claimed just three wickets all day, one in each session.

Cullinan had batted nine hours and 55 minutes, faced 436 balls and hit 25 fours and two sixes in his 246.

SPORTS *in brief*

Lazio go four points clear

ROME (Reuters) – Yugoslav Simisa Mihajlovic struck a dramatic winner as Lazio shrugged off a missed penalty and the dismissal of Dejan Stankovic to win 2-1 at Vicenza yesterday and open up a four-point gap at the top of Serie A.

With the scores level at 1-1, Lazio's hopes of an 11th victory in 13 matches looked to have disappeared when Chilean striker Marcelo Salas hit the post with a 73rd minute penalty and Stankovic was sent off eight minutes from time.

But Mihajlovic's 90th minute free kick deflected off the legs of Giacomo Dicara in Vicenza's defensive wall and into the net for a last gasp victory.

The victory leaves Lazio with 48 points from 23 matches, four clear of a resurgent Parma, 3-1 winners over Perugia on Saturday, and Fiorentina, who needed an 86th minute goal from Moreno Torricelli to salvage a 1-1 draw at Salernitana.

AC Milan are fourth, a point further back after losing their 10-match unbeaten run 1-0 at AS Roma in another match played on Saturday.

McRae wins Safari – Makinen disqualified

NAIROBI (Reuters) – Colin McRae won the Safari Rally yesterday and notched up his first win for Ford since his multi-million dollars close-season move from Subaru.

The Briton, world champion in 1995, finished seven minutes 49 seconds ahead of Finland's reigning champion Tommi Makinen, driving a Mitsubishi, who was then disqualified for receiving assistance from spectators.

Three times world champion Makinen was penalized for being helped after puncturing twice during Saturday's opening stage.

Toyota, who had Frenchman Didier Auriol, Spaniard Carlos Sainz and local driver Ian Duncan in the next three places, made an official protest after the finish which was upheld by organisers. The Finn did not appeal against the disqualification.

Auriol moved up to second place. Makinen, winner of the first two rallies of the season, still led the overall standings with 20 points, followed by the Frenchman on 11.

British boxing fan killed after brawl

LONDON (Reuters) – A British boxing fan was killed when he fell under the wheels of a coach after a mass brawl broke out at a Commonwealth title match, ambulance officials said on Sunday.

The 31-year-old victim died after fighting erupted between rival supporters during the Saturday evening bout between Paul Jones and Jason Matthews at the Oldham sports center in northwest England.

He was attacked as he tried to board the coach after the contest but it was not clear whether he fell or was pushed under the wheels of the coach as it tried to leave.

Stransky rules out playing for England

LONDON (Reuters) – South African flyhalf Joel Stransky has ruled out playing for England in this year's World Cup because he does not have an English-born grandparent, Sunday papers reported.

Stransky, who lives in England and plays for English club Leicester, had hoped to play for his adopted country because he believed he had an English-born grandfather which would have made him eligible.

But further checks revealed he has no English-born grandparents. His great-grandparents moved to South Africa in 1919, the *Mail on Sunday* said.

"It's disappointing news but it takes a load off my shoulders. My England career is not an issue now," he was quoted as saying.

Stransky, who kicked South Africa's winning dropped goal in the 1995 World Cup final, would have become eligible to play for England a month before the World Cup finals begin in Wales in October.

But the prospect of him playing for England had provoked opposition, notably from England captain Lawrence Dallaglio, who said he would not be happy with Stransky playing beside him in an England shirt.

Victoria beat NSW in cup final

MELBOURNE (Reuters) – Victoria won the Australian domestic one day cricket competition yesteray when they defeated New South Wales by 39 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

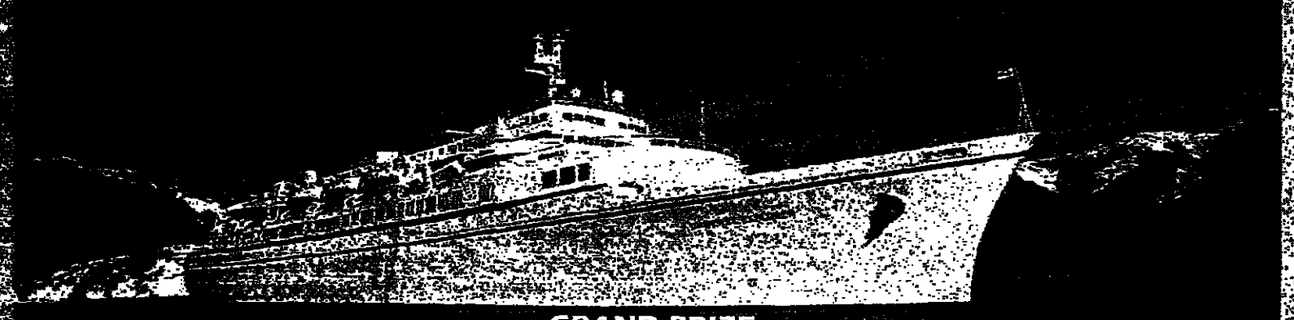
The Victorians scored 231 in their 50 overs then bowled NSW out for 192 to take the trophy for the first time in four years in front of more than 13,000 fans.

Paul Reiffel and Damien Fleming, who due to injury were ruled out of the Australian squad currently touring the West Indies, both took two wickets as the visitors succumbed in the 46th over.

Ian Harvey top-scored for Victoria with 57 runs off only 54 balls, while Graeme Vimpani made 48 and Brad Hodge 42.

For NSW, only Michael Bevan showed any resistance with a typically well-crafted 55. Former Australian captain Mark Taylor was out for a duck.

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FREE 2-Week Kosher Alaska Adventure For Two
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Starting February 10 and continuing until March 10, 1999, one fully-completed entry form will be drawn each day and awarded a beautiful coffee table book from Steimatzky. The names of the winners will be published daily in the newspaper. Daily prize winners remain eligible for the Grand Prize Drawing.

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Every day for the next 6 weeks, (January 22 - March 4) The Jerusalem Post will print one of the six cartoon coupons shown to the right - in the newspaper. Collect a different cartoon coupon each day, by cutting it out and pasting it on the entry form. When all 6 cartoons have been attached to the corresponding spaces on the form, send to:
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Collect the 6 different cartoon coupons that will appear in The Jerusalem Post from January 22 - March 4 1999, attach them to the corresponding spaces on the entry form below and send to: Alaska c/o The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem, 91000. You may enter as many times as you wish. All entries must reach The Jerusalem Post by March 8, 1999. Only fully-completed forms will be entered into the draw. No photocopies or faxes will be accepted.



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Heisman winner: A Browns' wannabe

Like W.C. Fields, Ricky Williams would rather not be in Philadelphia.

The Texas running back is lobbying the Cleveland Browns to make him the top pick in the NFL draft over quarterback Tim Couch.

"I'll be on my knees, doing like this," Williams said at the scouting combine in Indianapolis last week as he put his hands together as if he were saying a prayer. "I'll be begging."

Since Cleveland seemed committed to taking a quarterback – probably Couch – Williams is likely to be on the board when Philadelphia makes the second pick.

The surprise for Williams is that the Eagles also may bypass him in the draft. In fact, he could easily fall to the fifth spot.

That's because there are four highly rated quarterbacks – Couch, Donovan McNabb, Daunte Culpepper and Akili Smith – in this draft, and teams are desperate for quarterbacks.

Culpepper even said the Eagles told him they will take a quarterback at No. 2.

That doesn't mean they will. Teams frequently sent out false signals to disguise their intentions. But it wouldn't be a surprise if the Eagles take one of the quarterbacks. After all, their new coach, Andy Reid, was a quarterback coach in Green Bay.

Cincinnati picks third, and it also wouldn't be a surprise if the Bengals take a quarterback. Team president Mike Brown is a big believer in their importance.

If quarterbacks go 1-2-3, Indianapolis would likely bypass Williams at No. 4 because they have Marshall Faulk and are desperate for defensive help. USC linebacker Chris Claiborne is their likely selection.

That means Williams could still be on the board when Washington makes the fifth pick.

Williams obviously will be disappointed if he falls that far. But he didn't help himself at the combine when he showed up 20 pounds overweight and said he'll play baseball this spring.

Three times lucky

Quarterback Randall Cunningham of the Minnesota Vikings had a heavy heart when he was in Philadelphia last week to accept the Bert Bell Award given to the player of the year. He joined John Unitas as the only two players to win it three times.

But Cunningham wasn't in a mood to celebrate because his quarterback coach, Chip Myers, who was promoted to the offensive coordinator's position after Billick took the Ravens' job, died of a heart attack a week ago.

It's hard to believe, but this is the second time Cunningham has lost his coach in this manner.

A decade ago, his Eagles quarterback coach, Doug Scovil, also died of a heart attack.

Boomer's rumors

Did the Bengals try to talk Boomer Esiason out of retirement last week? There was speculation last week that was the reason he visited the Bengals offices. Esiason said he was just in town closing on the sale of his home and stopped by for a visit.

But quarterback Jeff Blake was obviously suspicious. "I can't trust anyone there. There's no loyalty to me. ... If Boomer Esiason announced tomorrow he was coming back to football, he'd be named the starter," Blake said.

Esiason, though, stayed retired, and the Bengals paid Blake a $500,000 roster bonus, an indication he'll be on the team this fall. Coach Bruce Coslet said, "I don't have to defend my loyalty to Jeff Blake. I gave him a job when he was cut and out on the street. I don't care if he's mad. Maybe he'll play with a chip on his shoulder and do great."

Another chance

Three former first-round picks, quarterbacks Andre Ware and Kerry Collins and running Lawrence Phillips, are starting over this year.

Ware and Phillips are starting at the bottom of the ladder in the NFL-Europe league.

By contrast, Collins is starting over in New York where he'll get $5.4 million from the Giants this year – a $5m signing bonus and a $400,000 base salary.

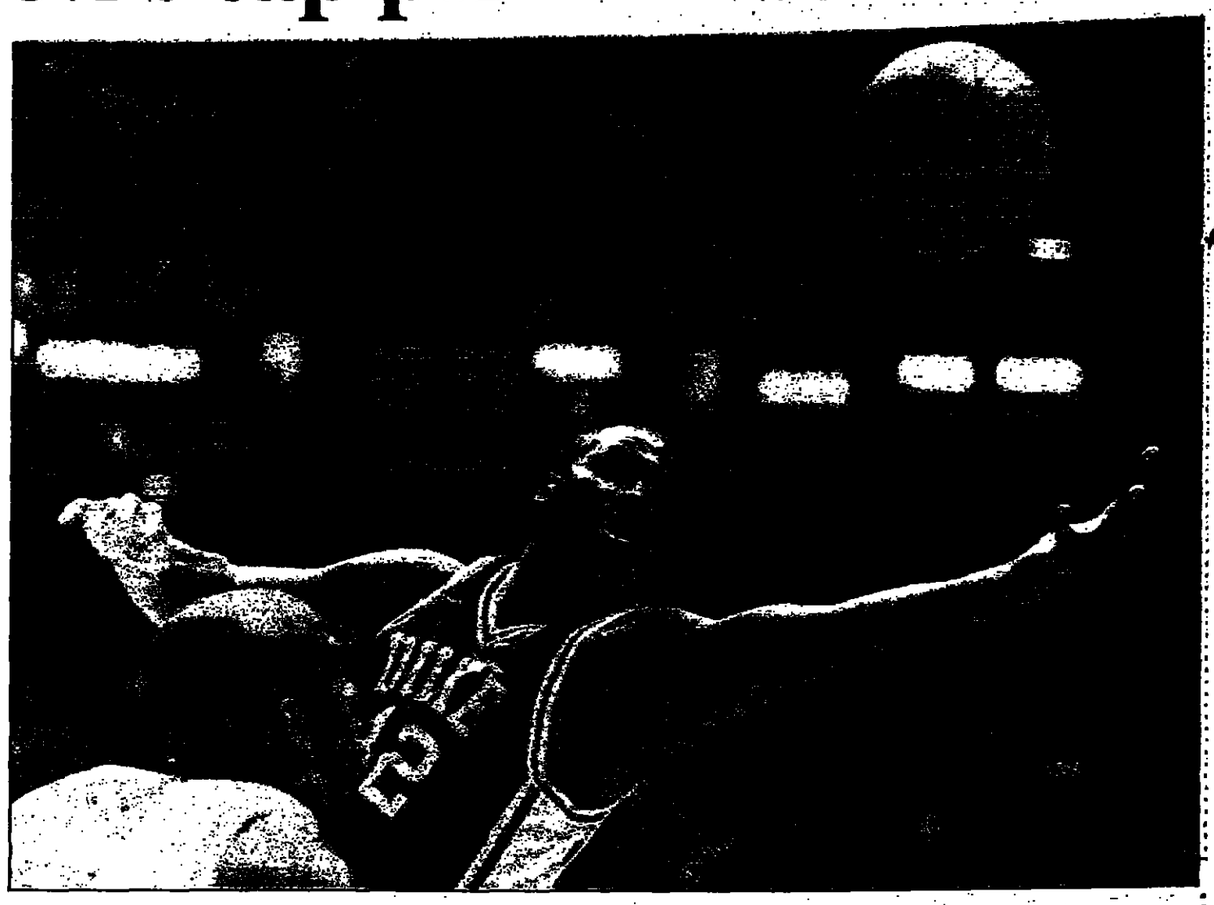
That's a stunning amount of money to give a player who's been labeled a quitter, a racist and a drunk and was dumped by two teams last year.

Collins said he hoped to get help from Giant team psychologist Dr. Joel Goldberg.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Blue Devils cap perfect ACC season

NCAA BASKETBALL



FAVORITE BRAND – Duke's Elton Brand stretches for a rebound as North Carolina's Ed Cota looks on. (AP)

CHAPEL HILL (AP) – It couldn't have been a more perfect night for No. 1 Duke.

The Blue Devils beat No. 14 North Carolina 81-61 Saturday to set a school record with their 24th straight victory and made Atlantic Coast Conference history by becoming the first team to go 16-0 in league play.

That the records came against Duke's bitter archrival made it even better, as did that it was in the Smith Center, where the Blue Devils hadn't won since 1991. What made it all perfect was that it was Duke's biggest victory in Chapel Hill since a 104-69 victory on February 29, 1964.

William Avery scored 24 points and Elton Brand had 17 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Blue Devils (29-1), who came into the game leading the nation in scoring (93.7) and margin (25.7).

"It hasn't been a goal," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of the 16-0 mark that followed last season's 15-1 conference record. "There is no banner for going 16-0, but it is a heck of an honor. It shows we came ready to play 16 times and beat good teams."

Seven teams had perfect records in the ACC before the league expanded to nine teams in 1991-92, the last North Carolina in 1987.

Duke dominated the boards against the Tar Heels (22-8, 10-6), who lead the ACC in rebound margin at 10.4, finishing with a 52-36 advantage.

"The second half we were much stronger on the boards and rebounding was the key to this basketball game," Krzyzewski said.

North Carolina still leads the series against Duke 121-82 and came into this game having won 10 of the last 13, including a 97-73 victory here last season over the top-ranked Blue Devils. Duke swept the series this season, winning 89-77 at home earlier.

Brendan Haywood had 16 points to lead the Tar Heels, who shot 31 percent in the second half (9-for-29) in their worst home loss since Temple beat them 83-66 in 1988.

"They're a great team, even better than I thought," North Carolina coach Bill Guthridge said. "Overall, we played well in the first half but they have quickness and energy and they're well-coached. I've never seen anyone such an odds-on favorite to win the national championship. They're head and shoulders above everyone else."

No. 15 UCLA 79
Washington 62

Baron Davis scored 14 points, punctuated by a one-handed slam dunk in the closing seconds, as UCLA led the entire way.

Earl Watson led the Bruins (21-7, 11-5 Pac-10) with 18 points before sitting down midway through the second half with a bruised left knee. JaRon Rush grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds.

Donald Watts scored 14 points for the Huskies (16-11, 9-8), who haven't won at Pauley Pavilion since 1987.

No. 5 Maryland 84
Florida State 75

The Terps did not take their "A" game south, but they were in control throughout a methodical victory over the Seminoles that stretched their win streak to six games and capped one of the finest regular seasons in the university's basketball history.

Maryland (25-4, 13-3) had its worst rebounding game of the season, yet had little difficulty establishing records for regular season and ACC wins. The Terps nearly wasted leads of 11 points in the first half and 10 in the second, but the Seminoles were victimized by 18 steals, as Laron Profit and company established a conference record in that department.

The second-seeded Terps will open the ACC tournament Friday against either Clemson or Florida State, who meet in a Thursday preliminary.

If Maryland wants to keep alive its quest for a top seed in the NCAA tournament, it must win at least twice at the Charlotte Coliseum and get in the ACC final for the first time since 1984.

"That's a great regular season," senior point guard Terrell Stokes said. "Not good, great. Anybody in America would want to be 25-4. We did a tremendous job all year."

No. 6 Stanford 98
No. 7 Arizona 83

Arthur Lee scored 29 points and Kris Weems had 23 as host Stanford clinched its first conference title since the Pac-10 expanded to its current size in 1978-79.

Jarron Collins added 13 points as the Cardinal (24-5, 14-2 Pac-10) dethroned defending conference champions Arizona (20-6, 11-5). Each team has two regular-season games left.

No. 20 Indiana 88
No. 18 Iowa 81

Rob Turner scored 20 points as Indiana earned a first-round bye in next week's Big Ten Conference tournament.

The host Hoosiers (22-9, 9-7) had to rally from a 14-point deficit in the first half of their regular-season finale.

Iowa, which also gets a first-round tourney bye next week, was led by Jess Settles with 23 points and J.R. Koch with 18.

Vanderbilt 71
No. 19 Florida 70 (OT)

Dan Langhi scored 20 points as Vanderbilt won for departing Commodores coach Jan van Breda Kolff in his final game at Memorial Gym.

Van Breda Kolff, a star player for Vanderbilt in the 1970s, resigned Thursday following a lackluster season for the Commodores (14-14, 5-11 SEC). He compiled a 104-80 record in six years.

College Basketball Top 25

How the top 25 teams in The AP's college basketball poll fared Saturday:

1. Duke (29-1) beat No. 14 North Carolina 81-61.
2. Auburn (26-2) beat Mississippi State 76-73.
3. Michigan State (25-4) did not play.
4. Connecticut (24-2) did not play.
5. Maryland (25-4) beat Florida State 84-75.
6. Stanford (24-5) beat No. 7 Arizona 98-83.
7. Arizona (20-6) lost to No. 6 Stanford 98-83.
8. St. John's (23-7) lost to Villanova 68-60.
9. Cincinnati (25-4) beat Memphis 89-64.
10. Ohio State (22-7) lost to Penn State 98-85 (OT).
11. Miami (21-5) beat Rutgers 68-63.
12. Utah (24-4) beat No. 21 New Mexico 77-47.
13. Kentucky (22-7) did not play.
14. North Carolina (22-8) lost to No. 1 Duke 81-61.
15. UCLA (21-7) beat Washington 79-62.
16. Wisconsin (21-8) lost to Michigan 51-39.
17. College of Charleston (27-2) beat Western Carolina 80-49.
18. Iowa (18-8) lost to No. 20 Indiana 88-81.
19. Florida (19-7) lost to Vanderbilt 71-70 (OT).
20. Indiana (22-9) beat No. 18 Iowa 88-81.
21. New Mexico (22-7) lost to No. 12 Utah 77-47.
22. Texas (18-11) lost to Missouri 54-47.
23. Purdue (19-10) did not play.
24. Syracuse (19-9) did not play.
(tie) Temple (19-8) did not play.

Leafs keep new home slate clean

TORONTO (AP) – The Toronto Maple Leafs scored three times in the second period and held Pavel Bure off the scoresheet to beat the Florida Panthers, 4-1 on Saturday.

Alyn McCauley, Mike Johnson and Todd Warriner scored in an 8:40 span of the second period for the Maple Leafs, who improved to 2-0-1 in their new home at the Air Canada Centre and 34-21-5 overall. Igor Korolev added a late third-period goal.

Bruins 4, Capitals 3

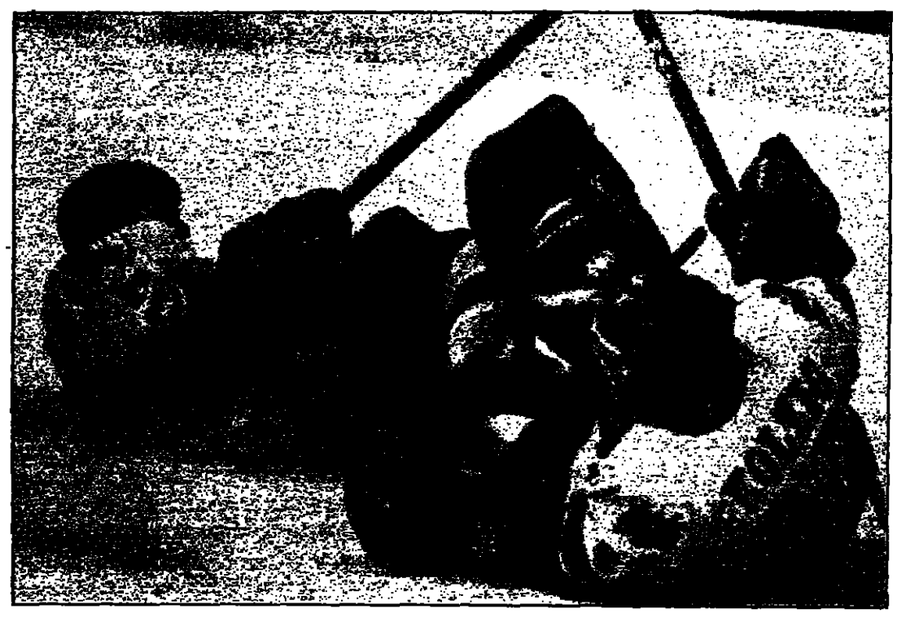
Byron Dafoe made some key saves and Jason Allison scored with 4:22 remaining to lift Boston to a home victory.

The Bruins also got a pair of power-play goals from Dmitri Khristich and one by Anson Carter. Boston is unbeaten in its last four games (3-0-1).

Islanders 3, Red Wings 1

Tommy Salo stopped 35 shots to lead host New York over suddenly struggling Detroit.

Robert Reichel, Barry Richter and Mark Lawrence scored for the Islanders. Tomas Holmstrom scored for the Red Wings, 0-2-2 in their last four after a six-game winning streak.



ICED – Bruins' PJ Axelsson (l) is stopped on a breakaway attempt by Capitals goaltender Olaf Kolzig in first-period action. Boston won 4-3. (Reuters)

Washington	1	1	1–3
Boston	0	2	2–4

First Period–1, Washington, Klee 6 (Konowalchuk, Zednik), 9:12. Second Period–2, Boston, Carter 10 (Allison, McLaren), 8:04 (pp). 3, Boston, Khristich 25 (Carter), 13:10 (pp). 4, Washington, Klee 7 (Oates), 18:41. Third Period–5, Boston, Khristich 26 (Allison, Bourque), :24 (pp). 6, Washington, Svejkovsky 4 (Bondra, Juneau), 3:50 (pp). 7, Boston, Allison 18 (Hejnze, Khristich), 15:38. Shots on goal–Washington 9-13-14–36. Boston 5-9-5–19. Goalies–Washington, Kolzig. Boston, Dafoe. A–17,565 (17,565).

Florida	0	1	0–1
Toronto	0	3	1–4

First Period–None. Second Period–1, Toronto, McCauley 9 (Johnson, D.King), 3:28. 2, Toronto, Johnson 18 (Karpovtsev, Sundin), 10:41 (pp). 3, Toronto, Warriner 8 (Kohn, Sundin), 12:09. 4, Florida, Kozlov 13 (Dvorak, Lindsay), 19:22. Third Period–5, Toronto, Korolev 12 (Karpovtsev), 15:46. Shots on goal–Florida 7-8-8–23. Toronto 8-9-13–30. Goalies–Florida, Burke. Toronto, Joseph. A–18,800 (18,800).

Ottawa	0	0	1–1
Montreal	1	1	2–4

First Period–1, Montreal, Recchi 12 (Koivu, Corson), 17:57. Second Period–2, Montreal, Malakhov 11 (Rucinsky, Bruneti), 16:49. Third Period–3, Ottawa, Yashin 29 (Arvedsson, Redden), 1:01. 4, Montreal, Stevenson 5 (Zholtok), 14:49. 5, Montreal, Koivu 12 (Malakhov), 18:12 (en). Shots on goal–Ottawa 9-9-6–26. Montreal 14-8-9–29. Goalies–Ottawa, Rboden. Montreal, Hackett. A–21,273 (21,273).

Detroit	0	1	0–1
N.Y. Islanders	0	2	1–3

First Period–None. Second Period–1, New York, Reichel 18 (Palffy, Jonsson), :47 (pp). 2, New York, Richter 6 (Reichel, Palffy), 5:36. 3, Detroit, Holmstrom 9 (Brown, Fedorov), 14:50. Third Period–4, New York, Lawrence 8 (Reichel, Palffy), 15:00 (pp). Shots on goal–Detroit 10-13-13–36. New York 15-8-7–30. Goalies–Detroit, Hodson. New York, Salo. A–13,243 (16,297).

Nashville	0	1	0–1
Colorado	1	1	1–3

First Period–1, Colorado, Lemieux 21 (Deadmarsh, Ozolinsh), 8:09. Second Period–2, Nashville, Brunette 10 (Walker, Ronning), 15:29. 3, Colorado, Messier 2 (Foote, Deadmarsh), 18:45 (pp). Third Period–4, Colorado, Forsberg 18 (Deadmarsh, Lemieux), 12:41 (pp). Shots on goal–Nashville 5-7-10–22. Colorado 7-11-14–32. Goalies–Nashville, Dunham. Colorado, Roy. A–18,061 (16,061).

Carolina	0	1	0–2
Edmonton	0	1	1–2

First Period–None. Second Period–1, Carolina, Mandville 5 (Battaglia, Ranheim), 4:50. 2, Edmonton, Mironov 8 (Weight, Murray), 7:24 (pp). Third Period–3, Edmonton, McAmmond 9 (Grier, Marchant), 10:41. 4, Carolina, Francis 12 (Primeau, Kapanen), 19:36. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Carolina 15-9-8-4–36. Edmonton 5-15-10-2–32. Goalies–Carolina, Irbe. Edmonton, Passmore. A–17,100 (17,100).

Anaheim	1	1	2–4
San Jose	1	0	0–1

First Period–1, San Jose, Marleau 14 (Murphy, Norton), 5:22 (pp). 2, Anaheim, Selanne 34 (Marshall), 15:50. Second Period–3, Anaheim, Green 12 (Olausson, Selanne), 14:44 (pp). Third Period–4, Anaheim, Kariya 27 (Selanne, Green), 11:28. 5, Anaheim, Heller 1 (Selanne, Kariya), 13:06. Shots on goal–Anaheim 12-5-12–30. San Jose 8-11-10–29. Goalies–Anaheim, Hebert. San Jose, Shields. A–17,483 (17,483).

Canadiens 4, Senators 1

In Montreal, Jeff Hackett made 25 saves as the Montreal Canadiens ended a two-game losing streak with a victory over the Ottawa Senators.

Avalanche 3, Predators 1

Eric Messier and Peter Forsberg scored power-play goals and Patrick Roy had 21 saves as host Colorado snapped a seven-game winless streak.

Roy boosted his career regular-season victory total to 402, tops among active goaltenders. Counting regular season and playoffs, Roy now has 501 victories, tying Terry Sawchuk and trailing only Jacques Plante (505).

Hurricanes 2, Oilers 2

Center Ron Francis scored with 24 seconds left in regulation to give visiting Carolina a tie.

Francis dumped the puck out from behind the Edmonton net and it deflected off an Oiler defender past rookie goalie Steve Passmore.

Mighty Ducks 4, Sharks 1

Teemu Selanne scored the 300th goal of his NHL career and added three assists as Anaheim won on the road.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	30	16	13	73	182	131
New Jersey	32	20	8	72	177	152
Pittsburgh	32	19	7	71	184	159
N.Y. Rangers	24	28	7	55	163	165
N.Y. Islanders	19	35	7	45	143	183
Northeast Division						
Ottawa	33	18	8	74	170	128
Toronto	34	21	5	73	194	176
Buffalo	27	20	12	66	161	132
Boston	25	24	10	60	154	140
Montreal	24	29	8	56	144	158
Southeast Division						
Carolina	27	23	12	66	160	154
Florida	22	22	16	60	153	159
Washington	24	30	5	53	149	156
Tampa Bay	13	41	5	31	123	214

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	31	25	6	68	183	158
St. Louis	24	24	10	58	162	150
Nashville	21	33	6	48	141	193
Chicago	17	36	8	42	135	193
Northwest Division						
Colorado	30	22	8	68	163	147
Edmonton	23	28	9	55	164	156
Calgary	21	29	10	52	155	174
Vancouver	19	32	9	47	148	187
Pacific Division						
Dallas	37	11	9	83	170	116
Phoenix	30	19	10	70	148	132
Anaheim	27	25	9	63	164	150
San Jose	20	27	14	54	135	144
Los Angeles	23	32	5	51	140	161

Droves wait for Tiger tickets

DETROIT (AP) – John Rafalski drove seven hours Friday from Illinois, then spent another 11 hours camped outside Tiger Stadium for baseball tickets for either opening day or the last home game in the famed ballpark's last season.

But just 33 minutes after the tickets went on sale, they were long gone.

So it went – elation for some, frustration for others among the hundreds of Tigers fans who lined up Saturday in the misty chill outside the 86-year-old stadium. Many sought the handful of tickets made available for the April 12 home opener against the Minnesota Twins, or the last of the roughly 11,000 tickets for the September 27 regular-season finale against Kansas City.

Greg Wrobel and Terry Schmidt had better luck: Each landed eight tickets to the opener and eight more for the last game at the stadium. Being first in line paid off for Wrobel, who staked his spot at the line's front about noon Friday, three hours before Schmidt arrived.

Hours spent in line for the ticket-targeting throng produced nostalgic nods to better days for the stadium that opened April 20, 1912 – the same day as Boston's Fenway Park – and for a franchise that had its great moments and players.

Al Kaline, Hank Greenberg, Mickey Lolich and, of course, Ty Cobb. Temperamental manager Sparky Anderson kicking dirt on umpires. Gangly right-handed hurler Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, who once groomed the pitching mound's dirt like a proud robin tending a nest. Or Hal Newhouser, a Hall of Fame winner of two consecutive American League MVP awards in the 1940s.

Or Kirk Gibson and images of his fist thrust skyward after his 1984 World Series homer that helped propel the Tigers to the title.

"I don't think a lot of people realize exactly what's happening this year," said Schmidt, alluding to Tiger Stadium's swan song. "Unless you're one of these Tigers fans who through the years have come here, you really can't appreciate what you have until it's gone."

The Tigers and Detroit developers hope to minimize such loss with the new 40,000-seat, $285 million Comerica Park being built in downtown Detroit about a mile east of the existing stadium and scheduled to be ready for the 2000 season.



TAKING CUTS – Texas' outfielder Roberto Kelly tosses one of his bats as he steps up for batting practice at the Rangers' spring training camp in Port Charlotte, Florida. (Reuters)

McGwire sues drug firm

Mark McGwire is suing the distributor of a pain reliever, contending the company made false claims that he endorses the product and credits its use for enabling him to break the home run record last season.

McGwire's suit is against People First Inc., distributor of The Freedom Formula. Its brochure touts the product as an all-natural pain reliever derived from rain forest plants.

The brochure even has a photo of McGwire holding a bottle of the product. But he has never endorsed it, the suit alleges.

Although former St. Louis Cardinals hitting coach Dave Parker is not a defendant, he has a role in the case.

At some point last year in the Cardinals clubhouse, Parker asked McGwire to pose for a photograph of him holding a bottle of The Freedom Formula.

As a courtesy to Parker, McGwire posed for the picture but never consented to its use.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

CRITICS' CHOICE



Erez Ben-Harpush and friends are part of the Eric Smith Puppet Theater.

PUPPET THEATER

RACHEL BELL

Puppeteer Eric Smith celebrates his 25th anniversary here with *Dolly of a Theater (Buba shel Te'atron)*, a puppet-theater festival for the whole family, March 1-3. Smith uses near life-size stick puppets, and these will be displayed, together with glove puppets and marionettes, in an accompanying exhibit.

Today there's *The Wizard of Oz* at 11 a.m., *Bomba Gerz* at 1 and *Andersen Legends* at 5, all on the main stage at Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal Center.

TELEVISION

HELEN KAYE

A good spoof lets the big stars let their hair down, as do Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Annette Bening, Danny de Vito and others in *Mars Attacks!*, Tim Burton's spoof on alien-invasion flicks. Tonight on the Movie Channel (4) at 10 p.m.

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

ARABIC PROGRAMS
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Hanni's Purim Room
10:00 Sesame Street
10:25 Hanni's Purim Room
10:30 Fairy Tales
11:20 Jim's Gift – a 12-year-has to contend with a school bully, a wicked sister and the loss of his dog
13:00 Hanni's Purim Room
15:00 Sesame Street
15:25 Hanni's Room

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zap 1
15:40 Heartbreak High
16:30 The Simpsons
16:59 A Good Evening
17:35 Another Star
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Sport
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Election Special
20:20 With Meni
21:00 News
21:30 Politics
23:00 The Book of Esther – Purim program
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 Song for the Day
6:00 Rambo
6:43 Morning with Gabi Gazit and Rivka Michaeli
9:00 Rivka Michaeli
9:55 Beneath His Vine
10:45 75-85
11:20 LA Law
12:10 Space: Above and Beyond – Part 7: The Enemy
13:00 Sport TV
13:30 Kate and Allie
14:00 Mommies
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Power Rangers in Space
15:27 Roseanne
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Street Corner
17:00 Five with Gadi Sukenik
17:36 Twenty Plus
18:00 Ephraim's Woes
18:35 Walker, Texas Ranger
19:30 Election Diary '99
20:00 News
20:30 First in Entertainment
22:00 Blazing Saddles (1974) – Mel Brooks spoof on Westerns. With Gene Wilder and Cleavon Little
00:00 News
00:10 Screen Test Special
00:57 Stone Cold (1991) – an undercover FBI agent infiltrates a gang of criminal bikers
2:37 Arad Festival – Eran Tsur (r)
3:23 Night Song

■ JORDAN TV (31)

Broadcasts passages from the Koran and news until the end of the official 40-day mourning period (March 20) following the death of King Hussein

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)
(unconfirmed)

7:30 700 Club
8:00 TV Shopping
15:00 Buddy Buddy
15:30 The Bionic Six
16:00 Woody Woodpecker
16:30 White Fang
17:00 700 Club
17:30 Arabic News
18:00 Smokey and the Bandit (1977)
19:15 Acapulco Heat
20:00 The Manager
21:00 Ed Sullivan Show
21:30 Live English League Soccer – Leeds United vs Leicester City
00:00 TV Shopping
2:00 700 Club

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:30 Dictator
17:30 Arabic Discussion Panel
18:00 The Oppressed – Egyptian series
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Auto Classics
20:00 Cinema 3
21:00 News
21:30 My Brilliant Career (1979) – fine Australian drama about an independent woman determined to lead her life her own way. With Judy Davis and Sam Neill
23:00 Dat Pop B-33

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Cone Zone
16:00 Boogie's Diner
16:30 The Adventures of the Bush Patrol
17:00 Storytelling
17:25 Life Stories
18:00 Learning Arabic
18:30 Enjoying Pottery
19:00 Literature
19:30 Vis-a-vis
19:50 Hello Prima
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Woman's Angle
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Power Room – Canadian documentary about women discussing life in women's washrooms
22:00 In the Heat of the Night
22:45 Long Search

■ CHANNEL 3

6:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (r)
7:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (r)
7:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
8:10 Celeste
9:00 Falcon Crest
9:45 The Young and the Restless (r)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (r)
11:15 Forever Little Women (r)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 Dallas
13:30 Newsradio
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie *14:50 Ricki Lake*
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Forever Little Women
16:45 Days of Our Lives
17:30 Friends
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 The Other Half – special Purim dating game
20:50 Trivia King – Purim special of the game show
21:10 Good Evening with Guy Pines – behind the scenes of Cannes film festival
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (r)
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
23:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
00:15 ER
1:05 Ghost Stories
1:50 Red Shoe Diaries

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Backfire! (1994) – spoof of firefighting movies, about an all-woman fire brigade and a male recruit who suffers sexual harassment. With Kathy Ireland, Robert Mitchum, Telly Savalas, Shelley Winters and Mary McCormack
13:10 Pirates of the Prairie (1942) – a deputy marshal is sent under cover to find out why vigilantes have been terrorizing a small town. With Tim Holt, Cliff Edwards and Ray Barcroft
14:15 Time Warriors 1, Planet of the Dino-Knights (1995) – A boy gets caught up in a cross-time battle against a plot to make time stand still
15:50 Time Warriors 2: Human Pets (1995) – the warriors are taken captive by giant creatures who treat them as pets
17:20 Mesk (1965) – Peter Bogdanovich's moving based-on- fact story of a teenager whose face is disfigured by a rare disease. With Cheri, Sam Elliott, Eric Stoltz and Laura Dern
19:15 Special report on *The Thin Red Line* with Sean Penn and Nick Nolte
19:35 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991) – Americanized version of the classic English story with Kevin Costner, Morgan Freeman, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Christian Slater and Alan Rickman
22:00 Mars Attacks! (1996) – Tim Burton's spoof on 1950s alien-invasion films. An all-star cast includes Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Annette Bening, Pierce Brosnan, Danny DeVito and Michael J. Fox
23:45 Vampire in Brooklyn (1995) – Wes Craven's *attempt at comic horror* features Eddie Murphy as a Caribbean vampire who falls in love with a Brooklyn cop. With Angela Bassett and Allen Payne
1:25 Omega Doom (1997) – in a future world where the human race has been wiped out, two groups of androids and cyborgs battle for supremacy. With Rutger Hauer
2:50 Almost Blue (1992, 91 mins) – a jazz saxophonist is overwhelmed with grief after his wife dies. He tries to forget by immersing himself in his music and a new girlfriend, unsuccessfully. With Michael Madsen and Lynette Walden.

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:05 Little Mouse on the Prairie
8:30 Treasure Island
9:00 Purim Special
9:30 Smurfs
10:00 Purim on the Children's Channel
10:30 Ninja Turtles
10:55 Batman
11:15 Purim on the Children's Channel
11:45 Mowgli
12:05 Purim on the Children's Channel
12:35 *Different World*
13:30 Simba, the Lion King
14:05 Little Mouse on the Prairie
14:30 Treasure Island
15:00 The Flying Hamentaschen
15:30 The Smurfs
16:00 Purim on the Children's Channel
16:30 Ninja Turtles
16:55 Batman
17:15 Purim on the Children's Channel
17:45 Mowgli
18:35 Different World
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 Full House
20:45 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
21:10 Lois and Clark

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Election Special	Election Diary '99	Melrose Place	Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves	Family Matters Married with Children	Undersea Explorers
20:00	With Meni	News	The Other Half		Full House Fresh Prince of Bel Air	The Heart of Healing
20:30		First in Entertainment	Trivia King			Two Fat Ladies
21:00	News		Good Evening with Guy Pines		Lois and Clark	Oskar and Jack
21:30	Politics	Blazing Saddles	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Mars Attacks	J'ai pas sommeil	
22:00			Seinfeld			Wild Encounters Undersea Explorers
22:30			The Tonight Show with Jay Leno			
23:00	The Book of Esther					

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 J'ai pas sommeil (French, 1994) – bleak drama based on the true story of Thierry Paulin, who killed more than 20 women. Directed by Claire Denis
23:50 *Fortress (1993, 87 mins.)* – sci-fi thriller set in a future authoritarian world where, due to overpopulation, couples are limited to one child and offenders are sentenced to lengthy stays in corporate-managed, computer-controlled prisons. Christopher Lambert and Loryn Locklin play a husband and wife who find themselves in such a prison

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (rpts from Sunday at 23:30)
8:00 Grasslands (r)
8:55 Sport Hunters (r)
9:40 Anatomy of Love (r)
10:30 Baby, That's Rock & Roll (r)
12:05 Wild Encounters (r)
12:30 Undersea Explorers
13:00 Waitress – intimate conversations with 10 waitresses who each see their profession differently
13:25 The Heart of Healing: Ancient Healing (r)
14:15 Two Fat Ladies (r)
14:45 Wittgenstein (r)
16:05 Infinite Universe – explanations of questions on astronomy, relativity and quantum physics, for the layman
17:00 Open University: Making Connections; *Where Angels Fear to Tread*
19:00 Wild Encounters: Moose
19:20 Undersea Explorers: The Coral Reef
20:00 The Heart of Healing: Who Gets Sick
21:00 Two Fat Ladies: The Air Race
21:30 Oskar and Jack – moving story of twin brothers who were separated in infancy in Nazi Germany and their very different upbringings, one as a Hitler Youth in Germany and the other as an Orthodox Jew in the Caribbean
22:30 Wild Encounters (see 19:00)
22:55 Undersea Explorers
23:20 Open University: When the Bough Breaks: Juro Immendorf: Public History Today
1:20 Wild Encounters (r)
1:45 Undersea Explorers (r)
2:00 The Heart of Healing

■ STAR WORLD (18/15)

6:00 Peak Practice
7:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Santa Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Vegetarian Cooking with Kurma
10:00 Snowy River, the McGregor Saga
11:00 Mysterious Island
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 The Brittas Empire
12:30 World News
13:00 Asia News & World Business Report
13:30 Home Improvement
14:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things
15:00 It's a Man's World
15:30 Grace Under Fire
16:00 Chicago Hope
17:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:30 Home Improvement
18:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things
19:00 It's a Man's World
19:30 Grace Under Fire
20:00 Chicago Hope
21:00 Home Improvement
21:30 Newhart
22:00 The Brittas Empire
22:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:00 The Wonder Years
23:30 Mr. Belvedere
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 World News
1:00 Home Improvement
1:30 Candid Camera
2:00 Aerobics Oz Style
2:30 *The Brittas Empire*

■ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (17/19)

6:00 Pyongyang Dianes (r)
7:00 CNBC
13:00 Inside Tibet (r)
14:00 Explorer: Ep 20 (r)
15:00 Hunts of the Dolphin King
15:30 U-Boats: Terror on the Shores
16:00 Sumatra, a Cautious Kindness (r)
16:30 Bednesters of Thailand (r)
17:00 Sumo, Dance of the Gargantuans
17:30 Nepal, Life Among the Tigers
18:00 Rage Over the Trees
19:00 Pyongyang Diaries (r)
20:00 Wildlife Tourism – Africa's tourist explosion
21:00 Esperanza, the Mountain Tapir – the rare species in the Andes
21:30 Alligator – its behavior and adaptation
22:30 Atomic Filmmakers – documentation of America's nuclear bomb tests
23:30 *The Last Frog* – their mysterious disappearances
23:30 Searching for Extraterrestrials
00:00 A Small Town in China – the life of four families in the town of Lijiang
1:00 Clues to the Past – the lost Roman city of Kurion destroyed in an earthquake in 365 CE
1:30 Mystery of the Crop Circles – strange patterns in English cornfields
2:00 Wildlife Tourism (r)

■ BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 USA Direct (r)
7:30 Correspondent (r)
8:30 Radical Highs (r)
9:30 Hard Talk (r)
10:30 Correspondent (r)
11:30 Hard Talk (r)
12:30 Top Gear (r)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Correspondent (r)
15:15 World Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 The Travel Show (r)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 QED: Life on Ice – hypothermia to reduce brain damage
19:30 Radical Highs (r)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (r)
22:30 QED (r)
23:10 *World News and* Business Report
23:30 Holiday
00:10 Europe Direct
1:30 Business Report & Asia Today (r)
2:30 Radical Highs (r)

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

6:30 Pinnacle Europe
7:05 CNN This Morning
7:30 *Best of Insight (r)*
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Managing with Jan Hopkins
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz this Weekend
11:00 Newsstand CNN & Time
12:30 World Sport
13:15 American Edition & Biz Asia
14:30 Pinnacle Europe
15:15 Asian Edition
15:30 World Report
16:30 Showbiz This Weekend
17:30 World Sport
18:30 The Artclub
19:00 Newsstand CNN & Time
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline Newshour
2:30 Showbiz Today

■ SKY NEWS (14/13)

News on the hour
6:30 Global Village
7:30 CBS Evening News
8:00 Sunrise
12:30 Sky World News
13:30 Money
16:30 Your Call
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time
2:30 CBS Evening News

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 NBA (rpt)
18:30 Spanish Soccer (rpt)
19:30 Sports News
20:00 *College Basketball*
21:15 To be announced
22:00 Spanish League Soccer
23:30 Rugby

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Athletics
10:30 Biathlon
12:00 Alpine Skiing
13:00 Soccer
14:00 Nordic Skiing
15:30 Nordic Skiing
17:00 Cycling
18:00 Biathlon
19:30 Tractor Pulling
20:30 Sleddog
21:00 Xtrem Sports
22:00 Trial
23:00 Strongest man
00:00 Soccer – Eurogoals
1:30 Boxing

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Pezel: Sonata for Trumpet and Organ; Frescobaldi: Toccata no 9; Anonymous: Sinfonia for 2 Trumpets; Purcell: Harpsichord Suite in A minor; Ireland: 3 London Pieces; Sweelinck: Chromatic Fantasy; von Eisenach: Capriccio for Trumpet (Eckland)
7:07 Operatic arias for baritone from late 18th-century Vienna by Cimarosa, Haydn, Mozart and Salieri; Salieri: Dixit Dominus / Organ Concerto
8:05 Mendelssohn: Andante and Presto agitato in B; Pleyel: Symphony in G major op 68; Mendelssohn: Variations Sérieusses op 54 (Protopopescu)
9:05 Bach: Chaconne from Partita no 2 arranged for Marimba ; Yinaam Leef: How Much to the East and How Much to the West?; Requiem from manuscripts of Corsican Franciscans of the 17th century (Organum Ens); Lior Nabuk: Voices from India – string quartet; Hector Zazu: Mass on a well-known Irish religious song; Keith Jarrett: performance with his trio at the Blue Note, New York 1995
12:00 Light Classical – arias by Donizetti, Rossini, Verdi and Puccini
13:00 Artist of the Week – Oster Sultan Kahn – Saringas and Voices. Performance at Guildhall, London, 1985 with Zakir Hussein
14:06 Encore – Bach and Brahms.
15:00 Cycles of Compositions
16:00 Early music
17:00 Etnahta – live from Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem. Gilad Hildesheim, violin / Raz Cohen, cello / Yevgeny Yehudin, clarinet / Revital Hachamov, piano. Rachmaninoff: Trio élégiaque in G minor for Violin, Cello and Piano; Hindemith: Quartet for Violin, Cello, Clarinet and Piano; Weidberg: Variations on a Theme by Mozart for Violin, Cello, Clarinet and Piano; Brahms: Trio in A minor for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano op 114
19:00 Rainbow of Sounds – works by Gabrieli, Mazzocchi and Carissimi
20:05 Schumann: 5 Pieces in Folk Style for Cello and Piano op 102; Shostakovich: Quintet in G minor for Piano and Strings op 557
21:00 A Matter of Agreement
23:00 Just Jazz

■ RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news

6:00 Morning Drive with David Starck (until 9:00)
7:45 Sports Update
8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch with Teisha Bader
12:00 Home Sweet Home with Tamar Yonah
13:00 Memory Lane with Marc Berman and Michal Cohen
15:00 Afternoon Drive with Dr. G (until 19:00)
17:45 Sports Update
19:00 Lonely Soul in Town Purim Special
21:00 Purim West Sport with Dr. G and Jeremy Gavzy
22:00 NU Groove II with Marc Berman
1:00 Late Night Music with Hack

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 The World Today
7:00 The World Today
8:00 The World Today
9:00 World News
9:15 This Woman Thing
9:55 My Century
10:00 World News
10:05 Record News
10:20 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
10:35 Health Matters
11:00 World News
11:05 Westway Access
11:20 The Vintage Chart Show
11:50 Sports Roundup
12:00 Newsdesk
12:30 Britain Today
12:45 The Farming World
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 Pick of the World
14:00 World News
14:05 Outlook
14:45 Sports Roundup
15:00 Newshour
16:00 World News
16:05 Health Matters
16:30 Meridian (Feature)
17:00 World News
17:05 Sports Roundup
17:15 Record News
17:30 Composer of the Month
18:00 World News
18:15 Insight
18:30 Multitrack: Hit-List
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 World News
20:15 Britain Today
20:30 Warm World
21:00 World News
21:05 Health Matters
21:30 Clouded Hills
21:45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
22:00 Newshour
23:00 World News
23:05 World Business Report
23:20 *Britain Today*
23:30 Meridian (Feature)
00:00 World News

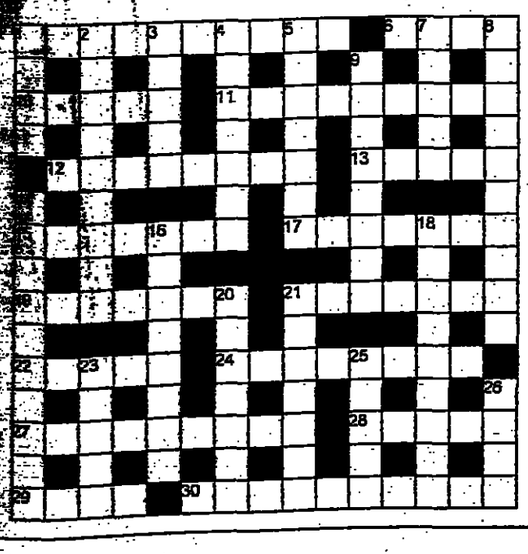
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Growing concern following beastly takeover (6,4)
6 Naval port (4)
10 A spice endlessly used in savoury food (5)
11 Able perhaps to occupy jar cleaner (9)
12 To put in reserve team after tea's unusual (3,5)
13 Encourages when about to gamble (5)
15 Continue to offer support (7)
17 In Lewisham poor folk must share a washer (7)
21 Neat, and possibly rather slow (7)
22 Note on evidence? Go over it again (7)
24 A quarter say are doubtful (5)
26 Jocular talk which could get naughty in time (8)
27 Cook cut a liver in shreds. It's so beneficial (9)
28 Overcharges men on the board (5)
29 A girl using Spanish and French articles (4)
30 The custodian in control—one who is invariably calm (4,6)

DOWN

1 A fish or seaweed extract (4)
2 Once forced to join up, had real impact (9)
3 The capital of a couple of hundred big guns (5)
4 Make way (7)
5 Activists' new roster absorbing the unit (7)
7 Finding bearings after a time, get out (5)
8 Insures hides (5,5)
9 A *form of support* many a worker is wearing (8)
14 Writer putting money into very large car—spacious (5,5)
16 Irregular ban, moral though it may be (8)
18 Cast for the amusement of youngsters? (9)
20 Dropping in the main (3-4)
21 He'd read about an auburn-haired woman (7)
23 Opposing the top man a Latin can be articulate! (5)
25 Only the patient will attract her attention (5)
26 The person working for some good cause regularly (4)



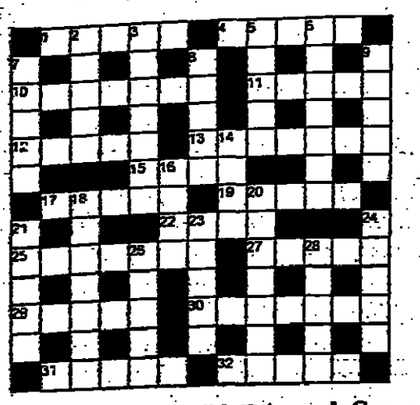
SOLUTIONS

C	O	W	A	R	D		P	U	S	H	O	V	E	R
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S	A	V	A	G	E		O	L	D	W	O	R	L	D
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H	A	Y	F	E	V	E	R		R	H	O	D	E	S

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Brougham, 7 Stick, 8 Tractable, 9 Opt, 10 Nail, 11 Assent, 13 Manche, 14 Strive, 17 Ferric, 18 Step, 20 Tie, 22 Fisherman, 23 Gruff, 24 Malaysia. DOWN: 1 Baton, 2 Ovation, 3 Guts, 4 Ambush, 5 Gigot, 6 Skittle, 7 Selects, 12 Sheriff, 13 Montage, 15 Isthmus, 16 Miasma, 17 Femur, 19 Panda, 21 Beta.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Coniferous tree (5)
4 Easy (5)
10 Maker (7)
11 Exercise (5)
12 Subsequently (5)
13 Friendly (7)
15 Perpetually (4)
17 Commerce (5)
19 Frighten (5)
22 Ordain (4)
25 Reiterates (7)
27 Fire-raising (5)
29 Discrimination (5)
30 Pillage (7)
31 Penurious (5)
32 Skilful (5)

DOWN

2 Upright (5)
3 Changed (7)
5 Bury (5)
6 Weightier (7)
7 Sea (5)
8 Cost (5)
9 Corner (5)
14 Spoken (4)
16 *Heraldic* green (4)
18 Rejoinder (7)
20 Erudite (7)
21 Soup (5)
23 Money-lending (5)
24 Viper (5)
26 In front (5)
28 Rascal (5)

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MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Good Will Hunting 5 • Fisher King 7:30 • Hellzapoppin 9:30 • The Big Lewbowski 10 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Dangerous Acts—Affliction—Elizabeth 7:15, 10 • Prince of Egypt 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 4:30, 7:15 • Lolita—The Negotiator 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show—The Magic Sword—Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30 • The Mousehunt—Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30 JERUSALEM THEATER The Milky Way 7, 9:30 • Washington Square 7, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6784477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Thin Red Line 6:15, 9:30 • Life is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 9:45 • Little Voice 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 9:45 • *Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30* • The Little Mermaid—Pippi Longstocking—Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Stepmom 7:15, 10 • The Magic Sword 4:45 SMADAR ☎ 5618168 Happiness 7:30 • Black Cat White Cat 5, 10
TEL AVIV
Lolita 11 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Central Station 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 1, 5:30, 10 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 11 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 GAT ☎6967888 Thin Red Line 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 GLOBUS ☎6081130/1 Prince of Egypt—You've Got Mail—ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Elizabeth 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Head On 7:30, 10 • Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 G.G. HOD 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Dangerous Acts—The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Ronin—The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 LEV ☎5288288 Black Cat White Cat 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Velvet Goldmine 12 noon, 2:30, 7:30, 10 • Happiness 12 noon, 4, 7, 9:45 • Girls' Night 12:30, 5 • The Dream Life of Angels 2:45, 7:30, 9:45 • Hana-Bi 5 LEV AVIV ☎*6417148 Black Cat White Cat—Girls Night* 7:30, 10 • The Dream Life of Angels—Hana-Bi 7:30, 10 • Nights of Cabiria 7:30 • Velvet Goldmine 10 LIMOR ☎6965084 he Mighty 6 • The Shall We Dance 8 • Forbidden Love 10 G.G. PE'ER ☎5442141 You've Got Mail—Affliction—Dangerous Acts 5, 7:30, 10 • Elizabeth 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5 RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—The Siege 7:30, 9:45 • Stepmom—Enemy of the State 7:15, 9:45 • The Little Mermaid—Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • Parent Trap—*Pippi Longstocking (Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102574 Opera House Love At Second Glance—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Little Voice—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:30, 9:45
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 Sliding Doors 7:15, 9:30 • Character 7:15, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE ☎8383424 Caravaggio 7 • Burnt By the Sun 9 MORIAH ☎ 8242477 Happiness 7:15, 9:30 ORI ☎ 8500056 Prince of Egypt 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Elizabeth 7:15, 10 • Got Mail 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • *The Truman Show*, 7:15, 10 • Lolita 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15 • The Negotiator 7:15, 10 • The Mousehunt—Paulie—The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 4:45 PANORAMA ☎ 8382020 Lolita 4:15, 7, 9:30 • You've Got Mail 4:30, 7, 9:30 • ANTZ 11 a.m., 4:30 • Paulie—Small Soldiers 11 a.m., 4:30 RAV-CHEN ☎ 8500055 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Rush Hour 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Siege 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 8674311 Thin Red Line 6, 9:15 • Love At Second Glance 7:15, 9:30 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 8416898 Thin Red Line 6, 9 • The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:15, 9:30 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7, 9:30 • Something About Mary 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30 • Parent Trap—Pippi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1 • The Little Mermaid 11 a.m., 1 3 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 8246553 The Waterboy 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Little Voice 7:15, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 7, 9:30 • The Little Mermaid—Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5
AFULA
RAV CHEN ☎6424047 The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 7:15, 9:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Rush Hour—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • Parent Trap 11 a.m.
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 You've Got Mail—ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Gingerbread Man—Under Heaven 7:30, 10 • Paulie—The Mousehunt 5 RAV CHEN ☎666120 The Waterboy—Rush Hour—There's Something About Mary 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 9:45 • Parent Trap—Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Pippi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m.
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 You've Got Mail—ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Magic Sword—Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 RAV CHEN ☎5711221 The Waterboy 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Rush Hour—There's Something About Mary 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 9:45 • Mulan 11 a.m. • Pippi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Lolita 7, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 3, 5, *7:30, 9:45 • You've Got Mail—Life Is Beautiful* 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 9:45 • Small Soldiers 11 a.m., 1 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30, 5 • Mulan—Pippi Longstocking—The Little Mermaid *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5
BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Central Station 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎6235278 Thin Red Line 6:15, 9:30 • The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30 *9:45 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30* • Mulan—*(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA The Waterboy 5, 8:30, 10:15 • Rush Hour 7:30, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 10 GIL ☎6340182 You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • The Negotiator 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Rush Hour—Girls Night 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 10 • Small Soldiers 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • ANTZ 11 a.m., 5
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 Thin Red Line 6:30, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 5:30, 7:30, 10 DANIEL ☎ 9544044 Black Cat White Cat 7:30, 10 STAR ☎ 9589068 Thin Red Line 6:45, 9:45 • Rush Hour 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • You've Got Mail 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 hin Red Line 6, 9:30 • Washington Square 10 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • You've Got Mail 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m.
HOLON
GLOBUS The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Thin Red Line 6, 9:30 • Lolita 7:15, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • You've Got Mail 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Paulie—The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2 STAR I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 11:30 a.m., 7:30, 10 • The Siege 10 • There's Something About Mary 11:30 a.m., 5 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 5, 7:30, 10 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9862521 The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:30 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Prince of Egypt—The Waterboy—Rush Hour 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Elizabeth 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail 7:30, 10 • Lolita 7:15, 10 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* —Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2,
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL ☎8779877 Dangerous Acts 7, 9:30 • Lolita 7, 9:30 • You've Got Mail 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Stepmom 7, 9:30 •

Serena wins



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Perfect Duke



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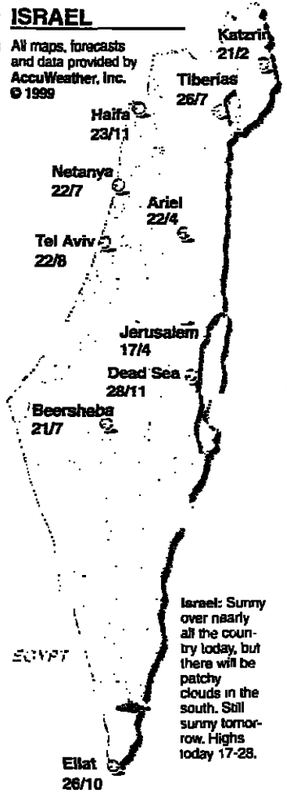
Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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ISRAEL



Israel: Sunny over nearly all the country today, but there will be patchy clouds in the south. Still sunny tomorrow. Highs today 17-28.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tuesday High C/F	Tuesday Low/W C/F
Ariel	29/71	4/39/s	21/70	4/39/s
Beersheba	21/70	7/44/s	21/70	7/44/s
Dead Sea	28/82	11/52/s	27/80	11/52/s
Eilat	26/79	10/50/s	27/80	11/52/s
Haifa	23/73	11/52/s	21/70	10/50/s
Jerusalem	17/62	4/39/s	16/61	4/39/s
Katzrin	21/70	2/35/s	19/66	2/35/s
Netanya	22/71	7/44/s	20/68	7/44/s
Tel Aviv	22/71	8/46/s	20/68	7/44/s
Tiberias	26/79	7/44/s	25/77	7/44/s

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

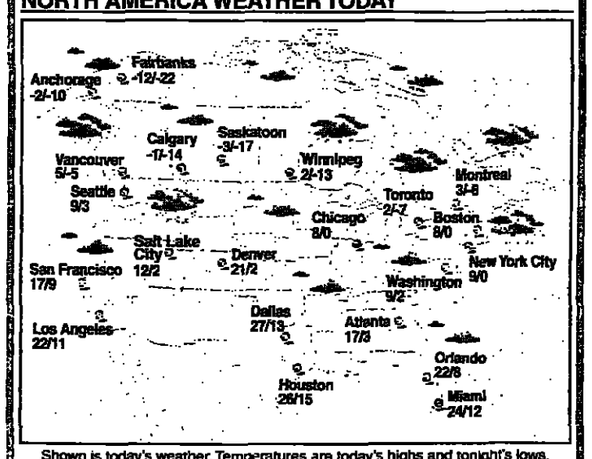
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tuesday High C/F	Tuesday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	11/52	9/48/r	11/52	7/44/r
Beijing	14/57	-1/31/s	12/53	4/39/pc
Berlin	7/44	6/43/sn	9/48	8/46/sh
Brussels	11/52	11/52/r	12/53	7/44/r
Cairo	22/71	9/48/s	23/73	11/52/s
Chicago	8/46	0/32/pc	9/48	-1/31/r
Frankfurt	4/39	-4/39/sn	8/46	5/41/r
Hong Kong	21/70	17/62/pc	21/70	17/62/pc
Johannesburg	33/91	18/64/s	33/91	18/64/s
London	14/57	12/53/r	14/57	7/44/sh
Los Angeles	22/71	11/52/pc	21/70	8/46/c
Madrid	13/55	2/35/s	17/62	4/39/c
Mexico City	23/73	9/46/pc	24/75	8/46/s
Montreal	3/37	-5/22/sf	0/32	-9/18/pc
Moscow	-1/31	-4/25/sn	-1/31	-2/29/sn
New York	9/48	0/32/c	9/48	2/35/s
Paris	9/48	8/46/r	11/52	6/43/r
Prague	6/43	3/37/sh	10/50	8/46/r
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	24/75/r	29/84	24/75/r
Rome	14/57	6/43/c	17/62	9/48/pc
Sydney	24/75	21/70/r	26/78	22/71/r
Tokyo	12/53	8/46/s	13/55	5/41/s
Toronto	2/35	-7/20/sf	1/34	-1/31/s
Vienna	10/50	7/44/pc	11/52	9/48/r
Warsaw	4/39	3/37/r	6/43	1/34/r
Washington	9/48	2/35/pc	12/53	3/37/s
Zurich	7/44	6/43/sh	9/48	7/44/r

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

MOON PHASES

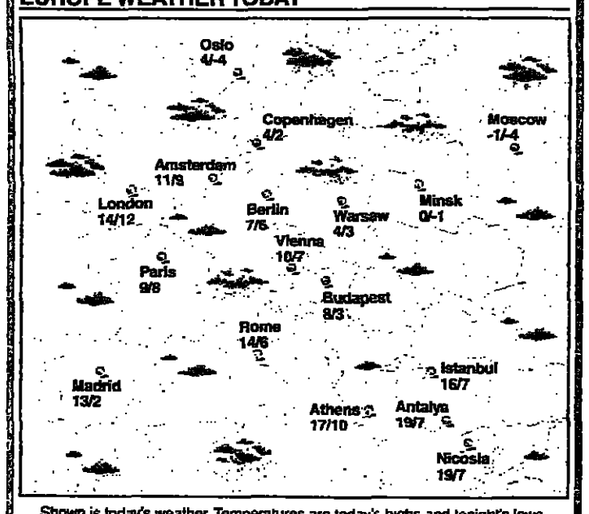
Full	Last	New	First
Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24

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EL AL Weekends

Pistons too good for Knicks

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) – Joe Dumars continued his hot streak with 21 points to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 89-68 victory over the New York Knicks last night.

The Pistons are now 4-0 since Dumars, playing in his 14th and final NBA season, returned to the lineup from a hamstring injury.

He is averaging 20.5 points and four assists in the winning streak.

Detroit had lost three straight to the Knicks, including a 78-69 loss in New York on Feb. 15, and have won just five of the last 22 meetings.

Lindsey Hunter added 16 points for the Pistons, while Jerry Stackhouse scored 13 off the bench. Houston led the Knicks with 13, while Larry Johnson scored 12 – but only two after the first quarter.

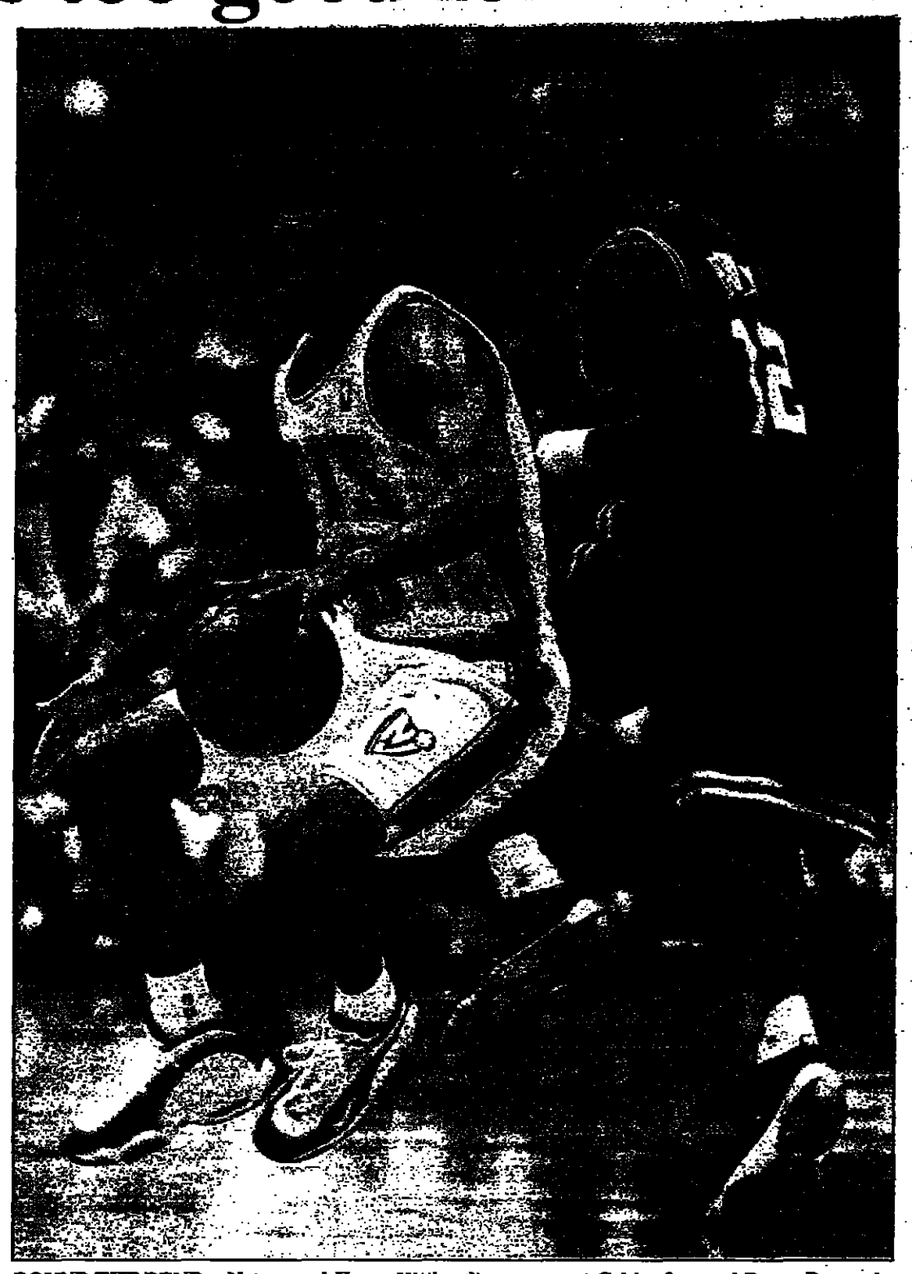
Heat 84, Magic 78

P.J. Brown hit a 12-foot jumper with 13.4 seconds to play and then added a key steal as the injury-depleted host Miami Heat overcame a 20-point deficit and beat the Orlando Magic 84-78 last night.

Alonzo Mourning paced Miami with 24 points, despite hitting just five of 20 from the field. Nick Anderson led Orlando with 25.

Orlando connected on just four of 18 from the floor and scored just 11 points in the final quarter, but stayed in the game by claiming a 6-1 advantage on the offensive boards.

Box scores, Page 21



ROUND THE BEND – Nets guard Kerry Kittles (l) moves past Celtics forward Bruce Bowen in first-quarter action. Boston won 101-92. (Reuters)

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Bulls 94, Hornets 77

Toni Kukoc led four Bulls in double figures with 16 points as Chicago won its first home game of the season.

Andrew Lang and Randy Brown finished with 14, season highs for them both, and Rusty LaRue added 13 on 3-of-3 shooting from 3-point range.

Derrick Coleman led Charlotte (2-9) with 17, and Chuck Person and David Wesley added 13 apiece.

Rockets 86, Grizzlies 74

Scottie Pippen scored 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter as Houston won on the road.

Hakeem Olajuwon finished with 18 points and eight rebounds as the Rockets won for only the second time in five games. Pippen also had seven steals and eight boards.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 20 points for the Grizzlies who were held to their lowest offensive output of the season.

Blazers 82, Wizards 81

Jim Jackson, starting in place of suspended guard Isaiah Rider, sank a 21-foot jumper with 39.4 seconds remaining to give visiting Portland its sixth win in seven games.

Rider, the Blazers' leading scorer, was suspended without pay for one game and fined $2,500 by the NBA for leaving the bench during an altercation Friday night at Charlotte.

Brian Grant led the Blazers with 19 points and 18 rebounds and Jackson finished with 13.

Juwan Howard led Washington with 25 points.

Celtics 101, Nets 92

Antoine Walker scored 11 of his game-high 28 points in the fourth quarter as visiting Boston handed New Jersey its sixth straight loss.

Walker also had 11 rebounds and Paul Pierce added 21 points for the Celtics won their third game in a row.

Keith Van Horn led the Nets with 22 points.

Mavericks 97, Kings 90

Gary Trent scored a career-high 29 points and hauled down 16 rebounds as host Dallas won for the fourth time in its last six games.

Robert Pack added 21 points and played solid defense, as Dallas held down the NBA's highest scoring team more than nine points below its average.

Vlade Divac scored 20 points and Chris Webber had 17 for the Kings, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

Hawks 103, Clippers 74

Grant Long scored 15 points as visiting Atlanta dealt the winless and injury-ravaged Los Angeles Clippers their 12th consecutive loss.

Mookie Blaylock added 13 points and 10 assists for the Hawks, who extended their winning streak against the Clippers to nine games.

One night after shooting a club record-low 29 percent from the field against the Lakers, the Clippers shot 39 percent against the NBA's best defensive team and made only eight shots from 15 feet or more. Reserve Tyrone Nesby scored a team-high 17 points.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	10	4	.714	–
Miami	9	4	.692	½
New York	8	5	.615	1½
Philadelphia	7	5	.583	2½
Boston	6	5	.545	3
Washington	4	7	.364	5
New Jersey	2	10	.167	7½
Central Division				
Indiana	9	4	.692	–
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1
Milwaukee	6	4	.600	1½
Detroit	8	6	.571	1½
Cleveland	5	6	.455	3
Toronto	4	7	.364	4
Chicago	3	10	.231	6
Charlotte	2	9	.182	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	10	2	.833	–
Minnesota	8	4	.667	2
Houston	8	5	.615	2½
San Antonio	6	7	.462	4½
Vancouver	4	8	.333	6
Dallas	5	10	.333	6½
Denver	4	9	.308	6½
Pacific Division				
Portland	8	3	.727	–
Seattle	8	4	.667	½
Phoenix	7	5	.583	1½
L.A. Lakers	8	6	.571	1½
Golden State	6	6	.500	2½
Sacramento	6	7	.462	3
L.A. Clippers	0	12	.000	8½

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Arsenal lose ground on United

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) – Arsenal's hopes of retaining their premier league title suffered a blow yesterday as they were held 1-1 at Newcastle United.

After a scrappy opening, Nicolas Anelka gave his side the lead on 36 minutes, latching on to Dennis Bergamkamp's long ball from midfield and calmly rounding Shay Given.

But a committed Newcastle side continued to fight for every ball and were rewarded for their persistence 11 minutes from time when Dietmar Hamann won himself some space on the edge of the area and flashed a shot past David Seaman.

The result left Arsenal third, seven points behind leaders Manchester United, who beat Southampton 2-1 on Saturday.

Chelsea, who outclassed Liverpool in a 2-1 win at Stamford Bridge in another of Saturday's games, are second on 53 points, three back from United, although Alex Ferguson's United have played a game more than both their London rivals.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger admitted the result left his side less room for manoeuvre than the leading two.

"There's a long way to go but now we have to be consistent," he told Sky television. "The leaders now have a big advantage.

"Today, we've dropped two points and we might drop more points as well but the problem now is that they can make more mistakes than we can."

Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	28	16	9	3	63	29	57
Chelsea	27	14	11	2	41	22	53
Arsenal	27	13	11	3	35	13	50
Aston Villa	27	12	8	7	38	31	44
Leeds United	26	11	9	6	39	25	42
West Ham United	27	11	7	9	31	38	40
Liverpool	27	11	6	10	50	33	39
Derby County	27	9	11	7	26	25	38
Wimbledon	26	9	10	7	30	36	37
Sheffield Wednesday	26	10	5	11	34	25	35
Newcastle United	27	9	8	10	35	36	35
Tottenham Hotspur	26	7	12	7	30	32	33
Middlesbrough	27	7	12	8	34	39	33
Leicester City	25	7	9	9	25	34	30
Everton	27	6	10	11	20	29	28
Charlton Athletic	27	6	9	12	31	37	27
Coventry City	27	7	6	14	28	38	27
Blackburn Rovers	27	6	8	13	27	38	26
Southampton	26	6	5	15	26	50	23
Nottingham Forest	27	3	8	16	22	54	17

Maggert, Magee meet in Match Play final

CARLSBAD, Ca. (Reuters) – Americans Jeff Maggert and Andrew Magee were to meet in yesterday's final of the $5 million Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship.

Maggert, who has won only one tournament in his career and that was six years ago, came from behind to win his semi-final match against compatriot Steve Pate 1 up at La Costa Saturday.

Magee, who last won in 1994, won his match Saturday more comfortably, 3 and 1 against countryman John Huston.

Pate led Maggert 3 up after 11 holes, but Maggert won the par-five 12th with an eagle to gain some momentum. He also won the 13th, 15th and 16th holes to take the lead.

After Pate birdied the par-five 17th Maggert rolled in a six-footer for a half, before also halving the last with a par.

In the other semi-final, Huston started strongly to win the first three holes, but he didn't win another hole. He bogeyed the fourth to give Magee the hole.

Magee subsequently won holes nine, 10 and 12 to take the lead, then also won the 16th and 17th holes to secure victory.

The 36-hole final pits 24th-seed Maggert against 50th-seed Magee, the winner of which will receive $1 million.

A final round featuring such under-rated players certainly is not what the PGA Tour and its sponsors had in mind for its first World Championship event, but such are the vagaries of match play.

Maggert, who has finished runner-up 13 times in his career, insists the million-dollar payoff is "insignificant to me right now. Winning the golf tournament is going to win a lot more to me than putting a few more dollars in my bank account."

But Magee said, "money is a motivating factor here, it's a big deal. I'm trying not to think about the million dollars, I thought I was coming here to make $25,000.

"I didn't think I'd be here this long, I didn't bring enough laundry. I only packed for halfway through the week and had to buy a couple of pairs of socks at the pro shop."

SCOREBOARD

SCOTTISH SOCCER – Premier League match last night: Kilmarnock 0, Rangers 5.

GERMAN SOCCER – Bundesliga result yesterday: Schalke 04, 0 Hertha Berlin 0.

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